Message

From: Carroll, Carly [Carroll.Carly@epa.gov]

 Sent:
 5/4/2018 2:30:46 PM

 Subject:
 Weekly Report for 05.04.18

Attachments: Weekly Report 05.04.2018.docx; Weekly Report 05.04.2018.pdf

Good morning,

Please find the weekly report for the week ending 05.04.18 attached.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Thank you,

Carly Carroll
Special Assistant to the Deputy Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
(202) 564-2769
carroll.carly@epa.gov

Message

From: Burton, Tamika [burton.tamika@epa.gov]

Sent: 3/16/2018 8:35:06 PM

Subject: Weekly Report!

Attachments: Weekly Report 03162017.docx; Weekly Report 03162017.pdf

Good Afternoon,
Please see the attached weekly report!

Have a great weekend ©

Tamika Burton
Staff Assistant to the Deputy Administrator
Immediate Office of the Administrator
MC 1104A Room 3412 WJC North
(202) 564-4771 (d)

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) (c)
burton.tamika@epa.gov



Message

From: Monica Pitts - MayeCreate Design [customerservice@lormanonlinelearning.com]

Sent: 5/9/2019 4:01:00 PM

To: Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]

Subject: [SPAM] Using Social Media for Public Works and Utility Professionals: May 16 - 1 pm ET



Dear Colleague,

We would like to personally invite you to join us at our upcoming Lorman Education Services live webinar <u>Using Social Media for Public Works and Utility Professionals</u> on May 16 at 1 pm ET.

Learn how to use social media to keep your community engaged and the steps required to build an effective social media policy.

As a utility professional you are a person of service. You serve the citizens of your area to provide them with what we consider a basic right. Unfortunately in this age of social media those same citizens you serve may have lost their gratitude for the privileges you provide, often only engaging at the roughest moments, without worry because of the shelter and anonymity provided by social media. You may have even asked yourself why you would even bother with social media if it's just an outlet for customer complaints. What if it could be used to mend the gap? To connect with the public, share your story as humans serving humans and to showcase the effort you put in to provide a service citizens seldom stop to think about, and the day by day operations it takes to keep their service running smoothly, the problems you solve and the people who solve them. This topic will unlock the process of planning a social media campaign to connect with your audience, grasp how to build purposeful content, monitor to improve your campaign and take control of your social media presence.

Learning Objectives

- You will be able to evaluate your campaign.
- · You will be able to discuss what to research to build a plan that works for you.
- You will be able to describe how to outline deliverables for your social media campaign.
- · You will be able to assess guidelines for social media posts.

Join me at the conclusion of the webinar for a live question and answer session.

Register Today

We hope to see you there.

Sincerely,

Monica Pitts

Chief Creative Officer at MayeCreate Design

P.S. Can't Attend the Live Webinar? Recording Available

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Lorman Education Services | 2510 Alpine Road | Eau Claire, WI | 54703

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Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]

From: Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman[politicoplaybook@politico.com]

Sent: Mon 5/6/2019 9:53:31 AM (UTC)

To:

Subject: POLITICO Playbook: Will Democrats start playing hardball with Trump?

May 06, 2019 View in browser

BY JAKE SHERMAN, ANNA PALMER AND DANIEL LIPPMAN

Presented by

Listen to today's Audio Briefing

DRIVING THE DAY

A FEW THINGS WE'RE WATCHING ...

-- WHEN WILL DEMOCRATS start making PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP pay a political price for the administration's refusal to cooperate in congressional investigations? Will Democrats start demanding testimony and document production before they consider partnering with the president on legislation like an infrastructure bill? REMEMBER: Democrats have tons of leverage here. The president needs them to do *anything*, including keeping the government funded and lifting the debt limit, not to mention more lofty goals like some infrastructure package or a prescription drug bill.

NEW FODDER ALONG THESE LINES -- @realDonaldTrump at 2:03 p.m.: "After spending more than \$35,000,000 over a two year period, interviewing 500 people, using 18 Trump Hating Angry Democrats & 49 FBI Agents - all culminating in a more than 400 page Report showing NO COLLUSION - why would the Democrats in Congress now need Robert Mueller......"

- ... "....to testify. Are they looking for a redo because they hated seeing the strong NO COLLUSION conclusion? There was no crime, except on the other side (incredibly not covered in the Report), and NO OBSTRUCTION. Bob Mueller should not testify. No redos for the Dems!"
- -- EXCLUSIVE: POMPEO PUSHES BACK ON CHINA AND RUSSIA ... BLAKE HOUNSHELL: "The Trump administration is making a big show this week of boosting its presence in the Arctic, a region the president's team sees as 'an arena of global power and competition,' as Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will put it in a speech Monday in Finland. 'Just because the Arctic is a place of wilderness does not mean it should become a place of lawlessness,' he'll say ...

"Pompeo's address ... will go right at China, calling out what the U.S. sees as Beijing's increasingly malign activities all over the world, and at Russia, long a dominant Arctic player. 'Do we want the Arctic

Ocean to transform into a new South China Sea, fraught with militarization and competing territorial claims?' Pompeo will ask.

- "'Under President Trump, we are fortifying America's security and diplomatic presence' in the Arctic, Pompeo will declare. 'On the security side, partly in response to Russia's destabilizing activities, we are hosting military exercises, strengthening our force presence, rebuilding our icebreaker fleet, expanding Coast Guard funding, and creating a new senior military post for Arctic Affairs.'" <u>POLITICO</u>
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- "The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive information, said the Pentagon approved the deployments and that U.S. forces at sea and on land were thought to be the potential targets. The official declined to be more specific.
- "White House national security adviser John Bolton said in a statement Sunday night that the U.S. is deploying the USS Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group and a bomber task force to the U.S. Central Command region, an area that includes the Middle East." AP
- **BACKGROUND READING:** "The High-Stakes Confrontation Between Trump and Khamenei," by Karim Sadjadpour in The Atlantic
- -- HEADS UP ... CBS SET TO ANNOUNCE NEW ANCHOR LINEUP ... NYT'S JOHN KOBLIN and MIKE GRYNBAUM: "Gayle King ... would be the centerpiece of [new CBS News president Susan] Zirinsky's revamped 'CBS This Morning.' John Dickerson, an anchor since 2018, would slide over to '60 Minutes,'

according to four of the people familiar with the plans.

"Norah O'Donnell, Ms. King's other co-anchor, is the likely contender to take over 'CBS Evening News,' replacing Jeff Glor, who has been in the job for 18 months, the people said. ... Ms. Zirinsky is expected to pair Ms. King on 'CBS This Morning' with Anthony Mason, who currently hosts the show's Saturday edition, and Tony Dokoupil, a network correspondent who is married to the NBC News star Katy Tur."

NYT

-- IT SEEMS POSSIBLE that CBS could move the evening news to D.C., according to most reporting on the shakeup.

Good Monday morning. MICHAEL COHEN is going to prison today, per AP: "Once he gets to prison, Cohen will undergo medical and mental health screenings and be assigned a job, such as mowing the grounds or cleaning up the visiting room. He'll also get sets of clothing, bedding and towels.

"At the prison camp, about 115 inmates sleep in bunks lined up in barrack-style halls, instead of individual or two-man cells like in higher-security facilities. Recreational amenities include tennis courts, horseshoes and bocce ball." AP

WHAT'S ON PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP'S MIND -- @realDonaldTrump at 11:05 p.m.: "Despite the tremendous success that I have had as President, including perhaps the greatest ECONOMY and most successful first two years of any President in history, they have stolen two years of my (our) Presidency (Collusion Delusion) that we will never be able to get back....." ... ".....The Witch Hunt is over but we will never forget. MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!"

NANCY COOK: "Mulvaney aims for 'more proactive, less reactive' Trump message": "Now four months into the job, Mulvaney — who has taken a light touch towards managing Trump himself — has made pumping up the White House's communications machine a top priority. The communications and press strategy is something Mulvaney and President Trump talk about almost every day, Mulvaney told POLITICO, and he believes that even a president who dominates the media on a daily basis needs more forceful messaging and more messengers, especially now that a hostile Democratic House and some two dozen Democratic candidates are blitzing him nonstop.

"'We'll spend a little more time being proactive, and a little less time being reactive,' Mulvaney told POLITICO in an interview about his plans to fine-tune of the White House communications and press shop. 'We've got a great message to sell. We want to talk about the economy. We want to talk about healthcare. We want to talk about trade, so if we can try to drive the narrative a little bit more, we think that would be a valuable improvement." POLITICO

-- **KEY GRAPH:** "He also does not intend to fill the slot vacated by the former White House deputy chief of staff, Bill Shine, who was brought in to oversee communications but left after roughly eight months. Shine was the fifth White House staffer to serve as Trump's communications director in roughly two-and-half years after Sean Spicer, Mike Dubke, Anthony Scaramucci and Hope Hicks resigned, or flamed out."

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WHAT'S FORMER SEN. AL FRANKEN UP TO? ... FRANKEN has been on the political sidelines since he was shoved out of office after a spate of accusations that he was inappropriate with women. But last week, he sent out an email to his political supporters with this message: "It's been a while since I've been in touch with you." The email was meant to raise money for the "Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School at the Leech Lake Reservation" in Minnesota.

FRANKEN raised \$70,000 for the school. Here's a video he plans to release today.

FIRST IN PLAYBOOK -- NUMBERS USA is spending more than \$500,000 on a national ad buy on Fox News and Fox Business News (and also CNN in the D.C. area) through May 31 that will feature "Never Trumpers" like the Koch brothers, former Sen. Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.) and Ohio Gov. John Kasich. The message: reducing immigration is key to putting American workers' needs first and increasing wages. <u>The</u> <u>ad</u>

2020 WATCH -- THE NEW JOE BIDEN ... NATASHA KORECKI in Columbia, S.C.: **"On campaign trail, Biden keeps his hands to himself":** "There's been no hair-sniffing. No nose-to-cheek nuzzles. No intimate whispers with strangers. In his first full week on the road for his 2020 candidacy, Joe Biden is keeping his hands to himself.

"Biden joined the race on the heels of a rough period in which six women publicly complained that Biden's past touching made them uncomfortable. From his slow response to the controversy and the lack of apology, it wasn't quite clear if the 76-year-old former vice president could adjust to the realities of campaigning in the #MeToo era — or if the criticism of the overly familiar physical contact even registered.

- "But after nearly a week on the campaign trail, including nearly a half-dozen events in Pittsburgh, Iowa and South Carolina, it appears Biden got the message. Gone are the episodes of canoodling with voters, replaced by a less tactile brand of retail politicking marked by selfies and more physical reserve than Biden is accustomed to." <u>POLITICO</u>
- -- "Harris assails Trump for hateful rhetoric," by Chris Cadelago: "Kamala Harris intensified her frontal assault on Donald Trump late Sunday, condemning the president for attacking communities of color and denigrating African countries with 'foul language no president should speak.'
- "Harris, decamping from her brand-reinforcing battering of Attorney General Bill Barr, singled out Trump's response to the violent marchers in Charlottesville, Va. 'It's time we had a president who's not

scared to call neo-Nazi violence what it is: domestic terrorism,' the Democratic presidential hopeful told thousands at the NAACP's Freedom Fund dinner reception in Detroit." <u>POLITICO</u>

-- AP'S JAY REEVES: "Buttigieg, husband attend Jimmy Carter's Sunday school class"

THE JUICE ...

- -- NEW: DARIN MILLER, who has led comms and strategy for the Freedom Caucus for the last few years, is joining VP MIKE PENCE'S staff today to be deputy press secretary and director of strategic communications. Miller is a Hill vet, works well with the D.C. press corps and has been through the ringer with the HFC. He'll join a fellow former HFC'er -- Alyssa Farah -- on Pence's staff.
- -- **DEMOCRATS** are again trying to pry New York's 24th district from **REP. JOHN KATKO**. This time, Ralston Lapp is working with Francis Conole, a veteran, who is playing up his local ties, and his military experience (Naval Academy grad, in the service after 9/11). He has not filed an FEC report yet, but we hear he has raised \$100k. In a good year for Democrats, Katko could certainly be vulnerable. Hillary Clinton won his seat in 2016. But he won by 5 points in 2018. **Conole's launch video**

TRUMP'S MONDAY -- Trump will present the Commander-in-Chief's trophy to the Army Black Knights, the U.S. Military Academy football team, at 12:15 p.m. in the Rose Garden. At 6 p.m., the president will present Tiger Woods with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in the Rose Garden.

A message from Google:

Happy National Small Business Week! Learn how Google provides tools and trainings to help people across the U.S. grow their businesses at grow.google/local-businesses.

NYT'S ANNIE KARNI and KEVIN DRAPER: "In Tiger Woods, Trump Finds a Hero and a Business Opportunity": "Ever since Tiger Woods arrived on the public stage as a golf phenom at the age of 21, Donald J. Trump has been cultivating him as a celebrity who could add a sheen to his properties around the globe.

- "After Mr. Woods won his first Masters title in 1997, he celebrated in Atlantic City at the Taj Mahal casino, eating pork chops and being photographed with the owner, Mr. Trump.
- "Since then, Mr. Trump has named a villa after him at the Trump National Doral Miami. He has also gone into business abroad with Mr. Woods, announcing in 2014 that the golfer would design a course in Dubai as part of a luxury residential megaproject that would be managed by the Trump Organization."

 NYT

AP/CHICAGO: "Red Sox manager Alex Cora won't visit White House": "Cora cited the Trump administration's response to Hurricane Maria in his native Puerto Rico as the reason for his decision. "The government has done some things back home that are great, but we still have a long ways to go,' he said on Sunday following a 9-2 win over the Chicago White Sox. "That's our reality. It's pretty tough to go celebrate when we're where we're at. I'd rather not go and be consistent with everything."" AP

PLAYBOOK READS

PHOTO DU JOUR: Venezuelan demonstrators hold a vigil Sunday in support of Juan Guaidó after his failed uprising against the government. | Ronaldo Schmeidt/AFP/Getty Images

THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION -- "Trump taps Mark Morgan, former Obama official who supports border wall, to head ICE," by WaPo's Nick Miroff, Shane Harris and Josh Dawsey: "President Trump announced his choice as director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) on Sunday, tapping a former FBI official who frequently appears on cable news advocating for the president's immigration policies. ...

"In Morgan, Trump has found a vocal advocate for some of his positions, particularly the construction of a wall on the border with Mexico. Morgan has said such a wall would be an effective way to reduce illegal border crossings.

"Trump's Twitter announcement that Morgan 'will be joining the Trump administration as the head of our hard working men and women of ICE' caught White House aides and Homeland Security officials by surprise. They had not been informed Morgan was Trump's choice, and at ICE, senior leaders learned of the decision from the president's tweet, according to two senior administration officials." <u>WaPo</u>

GAZA LATEST -- <u>"Israel and Gaza militants agree to cease-fire after weekend of violence,"</u> by WaPo's Loveday Morris and Hazem Balousha in Jerusalem

A message from Google:

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EYE ON THE SKY ... SEATTLE TIMES: "Long before first 737 MAX crash, Boeing knew a key sensor warning light wasn't working, but told no one," by Dominic Gates: "Boeing admitted Sunday

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7.31.2020

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that it knew well over a year before the first crash of a 737 MAX in Indonesia last October that a warning light linked to a key sensor on the 737 MAX wasn't working on most of the airplanes, but it informed neither the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) nor the airlines operating the jet about the problem until after that crash.

"The warning light is significant because it warned of a malfunction in one of the jet's Angle of Attack (AOA) sensors, a fault that began the sequence of events that led to both the Lion Air crash in October and the Ethiopian Airlines crash in March.

"The alert worked only on planes flown by airlines that had bought a separate and optional AOA indicator added to the main flight display panel. Boeing disclosed the existence of the problem publicly only last week after a story in the Wall Street Journal. It disclosed its prior knowledge on Sunday only after a follow-up story.

"Furthermore, even MAX operators like American Airlines that had bought the optional indicator were misinformed by Boeing last year after the Lion Air crash about how the warning light operates." <u>Seattle Times</u>

AXIOS' JONATHAN SWAN: "Inside a top Trump adviser's fundraising mirage": "A political organization run by David Bossie, President Trump's former deputy campaign manager, has raised millions of dollars by saying it's supporting Trump-aligned conservative candidates — but has spent only a tiny fraction of that money supporting candidates. ...

"At least \$445,972 was spent on apparent book purchases. Copies of the Presidential Coalition's direct mailers — which Axios obtained and shared with CLC — show the organization offered people who donated above a certain amount (usually \$45) a copy of one of Bossie's books, 'Trump's Enemies.'" Axios

VALLEY TALK -- "Facebook Opens a Command Post to Thwart Election Meddling in Europe," by NYT's Adam Satariano in Dublin: "The cramped space is home to Facebook's newly opened operations center to oversee the European Union's parliamentary election, which will be held May 23 to May 26 in 28 countries.

"Modeled after the 'war room' that the Silicon Valley company created before last year's midterm elections in the United States, the people inside are tasked with washing Facebook of misinformation, fake accounts and foreign meddling that could sway European voters." NYT

MEDIAWATCH ... CNN'S SARA MURRAY and BRIAN STELTER: "Anatomy of a smear: How far-right websites spread a fake story about Pete Buttigieg"

-- SENTENCE DU JOUR ... WAPO'S SALLY JENKINS ON THE DERBY: "The stewards of Churchill Downs imposed an artificial order on 19 horses searching for solid footing while stampeding in a mire, the brown water pooling in mud-trench harrows, while 150,000 people wearing flower pots on their heads hollered at them." WaPo

-- NPR's Morning Edition has changed its opening tune for the first time in 40 years. "It's not a decision that we took on lightly," Meg Goldthwaite, NPR's chief marketing officer, told the NYT. "We wanted to freshen the music and get it ready for what we hope will be another 50 years. It just felt like it was time." NYT

PLAYBOOKERS

SPOTTED: Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) sitting in first class Sunday on the delayed American Airlines flight 1855 from Charlotte to DCA. *Pic*

COMING ATTRACTIONS -- H.R. MCMASTER will receive the 15th annual Benjamin Franklin Award for Public Service at the Foreign Policy Research Institute's annual dinner on November 14 at the Union League of Philadelphia.

SCOOP -- PER DANIEL LIPPMAN: "Henry Muñoz, the longtime national finance chairman of the [DNC], is stepping down from the position after more than six years in the role, he told POLITICO. ... The party committee raised more than \$600 million while he was finance chair ... The DNC has named **Chris Korge,** a Florida attorney who was a top fundraiser for Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign, as Muñoz's interim replacement. ...

"Although most Democratic presidential candidates aren't accepting corporate PAC money, the DNC's host committee has been talking to corporate sponsors in order to fund the July 2020 convention in Milwaukee, according to a person familiar with the matter." <u>POLITICO</u>

WEEKEND WEDDING -- HILLARY ALUMNI: Megan Nashban, a Democratic fundraiser and a Hillary for America alum, married attorney **Dan Kenney**. Everytown political director Chris Carr married the couple and Rep. Brendan Boyle (D-Pa.)'s chief of staff John McCarthy played piano. *Pic*

SPOTTED: Brynne Craig, Sabrina Singh and Mike Smith, Ben Jealous, Pia Carusone, Lauren Crawford Shaver, Vernessa Shih, Davey McKissick and John Lee, Punya Krishnappa, Erin Tibe, Karuna Seshasai and Tom Moran.

BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: Tucker Eskew, partner at Vianovo. A fun fact about Tucker: "I am shown/portrayed in two Jay Roach political movies ('Recount' and 'Game Change'), but I'd just as soon discuss garage rock and power pop with his wife, Susanna Hoffs of The Bangles." Playbook Plus Q&A

BIRTHDAYS: Tony Blair is 66 ... Sen. Richard Shelby (R-Ala.) is 85 ... Jamie Gorelick is 69 ... Daniel Jick ... Eric Fingerhut is 6-0 ... Sheena Mollineau, senior manager for corporate responsibility at PwC ... David Rogers ... WSJ's Jimmy Vielkind and Telis Demos ... Steve Lindsey is 63 ... Dani Lever, comms director for Gov. Cuomo ... Seth Freedland ... Spencer Pederson ... Cynara Lilly, principal at RALLY ... NPR alum Jennifer Longmire-Wright ... Cara Philbin ... Kevin Powers ... POLITICO's Claire Mullican ... James

Kariuki, multilateral policy director at the UK's FCO ... Liza Romanow, director of comms for Madeleine Albright (hat tips: Ben Chang and Jacob Freedman) ... Stefan Friedman, partner at Mercury ... Gerald "Jerry" M. Levin is 8-0 ... Martha Nussbaum is 72 ...

... Bloomberg's Joe Nocera ... ICM Partners' Lauren Clark, who got engaged this weekend to Apple's Bradley Knitz, whose birthday is also today -- <u>pic</u> (h/t Brandon Shaw) ... Abraham David Sofaer is 81 ... Kate Henjum ... Connor Lentz ... Meghan Conklin ... Laura Evans ... Alyse Cohen is 31 (h/t Edith Gregson) ... Mark Armour ... Rod Rodriguez, president and CEO at Global War on Terrorism Memorial Foundation ... Lisa Roskelley ... Benjamin Levine ... Max Giammetta ... Meek Mill is 32 ... Lisa Ferri ... Rebecca Powell Marx ... Natasha Mozgovaya ... Paul Schmitz is 5-o ... Bob McCall ... Jim Williams ... Bill Dolbow ... WH alum John Roberts ... Rosa Puech ... Jim Ramstad is 73 (h/ts Teresa Vilmain)

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-- HEADS UP ... CBS SET TO ANNOUNCE NEW ANCHOR LINEUP ... NYT'S JOHN KOBLIN and MIKE GRYNBAUM: "Gayle King ... would be the centerpiece of [new CBS News president Susan] Zirinsky's revamped 'CBS This Morning.' John Dickerson, an anchor since 2018, would slide over to '60 Minutes,' according to four of the people familiar with the plans.

"Norah O'Donnell, Ms. King's other co-anchor, is the likely contender to take over 'CBS Evening News,' replacing Jeff Glor, who has been in the job for 18 months, the people said. ... Ms. Zirinsky is expected to pair Ms. King on 'CBS This

Morning' with Anthony Mason, who currently hosts the show's Saturday edition, and Tony Dokoupil, a network correspondent who is married to the NBC News star Katy Tur." NYT

-- IT SEEMS POSSIBLE that CBS could move the evening news to D.C., according to most reporting on the shakeup.

Good Monday morning. MICHAEL COHEN is going to prison today, per AP: "Once he gets to prison, Cohen will undergo medical and mental health screenings and be assigned a job, such as mowing the grounds or cleaning up the visiting room. He'll also get sets of clothing, bedding and towels.

"At the prison camp, about 115 inmates sleep in bunks lined up in barrackstyle halls, instead of individual or two-man cells like in higher-security facilities. Recreational amenities include tennis courts, horseshoes and bocce ball." AP

WHAT'S ON PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP'S MIND -- @realDonaldTrump at 11:05 p.m.: "Despite the tremendous success that I have had as President, including perhaps the greatest ECONOMY and most successful first two years of any President in history, they have stolen two years of my (our) Presidency (Collusion Delusion) that we will never be able to get back....." ... ".....The Witch Hunt is over but we will never forget. MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!"

NANCY COOK: "Mulvaney aims for 'more proactive, less reactive' Trump message": "Now four months into the job, Mulvaney — who has taken a light touch towards managing Trump himself — has made pumping up the White House's communications machine a top priority. The communications and press strategy is something Mulvaney and President Trump talk about almost every day, Mulvaney told POLITICO, and he believes that even a president who dominates the media on a daily basis needs more forceful messaging and more messengers, especially now that a hostile Democratic House and some two dozen Democratic candidates are blitzing him nonstop.

"We'll spend a little more time being proactive, and a little less time being reactive,' Mulvaney told POLITICO in an interview about his plans to fine-tune of the White House communications and press shop. 'We've got a great message to sell. We want to talk about the economy. We want to talk about healthcare. We

want to talk about trade, so if we can try to drive the narrative a little bit more, we think that would be a valuable improvement." POLITICO

-- **KEY GRAPH:** "He also does not intend to fill the slot vacated by the former White House deputy chief of staff, Bill Shine, who was brought in to oversee communications but left after roughly eight months. Shine was the fifth White House staffer to serve as Trump's communications director in roughly two-and-half years after Sean Spicer, Mike Dubke, Anthony Scaramucci and Hope Hicks resigned, or flamed out."

A resident for Course

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WHAT'S FORMER SEN. AL FRANKEN UP TO? ... FRANKEN has been on the political sidelines since he was shoved out of office after a spate of accusations that he was inappropriate with women. But last week, he sent out an email to his political supporters with this message: "It's been a while since I've been in touch with you." The email was meant to raise money for the "Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School at the Leech Lake Reservation" in Minnesota.

FRANKEN raised \$70,000 for the school. *Here's a video he plans to release today.*

FIRST IN PLAYBOOK -- NUMBERS USA is spending more than \$500,000 on a national ad buy on Fox News and Fox Business News (and also CNN in the D.C. area) through May 31 that will feature "Never Trumpers" like the Koch brothers, former Sen. Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.) and Ohio Gov. John Kasich. The message: reducing immigration is key to putting American workers' needs first and increasing wages. *The ad*

2020 WATCH -- THE NEW JOE BIDEN ... NATASHA KORECKI in Columbia, S.C.: **"On campaign trail, Biden keeps his hands to himself":** "There's been no hair-sniffing. No nose-to-cheek nuzzles. No intimate whispers with strangers. In

his first full week on the road for his 2020 candidacy, Joe Biden is keeping his hands to himself.

"Biden joined the race on the heels of a rough period in which six women publicly complained that Biden's past touching made them uncomfortable. From his slow response to the controversy and the lack of apology, it wasn't quite clear if the 76-year-old former vice president could adjust to the realities of campaigning in the #MeToo era — or if the criticism of the overly familiar physical contact even registered.

"But after nearly a week on the campaign trail, including nearly a half-dozen events in Pittsburgh, Iowa and South Carolina, it appears Biden got the message. Gone are the episodes of canoodling with voters, replaced by a less tactile brand of retail politicking marked by selfies and more physical reserve than Biden is accustomed to." <u>POLITICO</u>

-- "Harris assails Trump for hateful rhetoric," by Chris Cadelago: "Kamala Harris intensified her frontal assault on Donald Trump late Sunday, condemning the president for attacking communities of color and denigrating African countries with 'foul language no president should speak.'

"Harris, decamping from her brand-reinforcing battering of Attorney General Bill Barr, singled out Trump's response to the violent marchers in Charlottesville, Va. 'It's time we had a president who's not scared to call neo-Nazi violence what it is: domestic terrorism,' the Democratic presidential hopeful told thousands at the NAACP's Freedom Fund dinner reception in Detroit." <u>POLITICO</u>

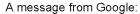
-- AP'S JAY REEVES: "Buttigieg, husband attend Jimmy Carter's Sunday school class"

THEJUCE...

-- NEW: DARIN MILLER, who has led comms and strategy for the Freedom Caucus for the last few years, is joining VP MIKE PENCE'S staff today to be deputy press secretary and director of strategic communications. Miller is a Hill vet, works well with the D.C. press corps and has been through the ringer with the HFC. He'll join a fellow former HFC'er -- Alyssa Farah -- on Pence's staff.

-- **DEMOCRATS** are again trying to pry New York's 24th district from **REP. JOHN KATKO**. This time, Ralston Lapp is working with Francis Conole, a veteran, who is playing up his local ties, and his military experience (Naval Academy grad, in the service after 9/11). He has not filed an FEC report yet, but we hear he has raised \$100k. In a good year for Democrats, Katko could certainly be vulnerable. Hillary Clinton won his seat in 2016. But he won by 5 points in 2018. **Conole's launch video**

TRUMP'S MONDAY -- Trump will present the Commander-in-Chief's trophy to the Army Black Knights, the U.S. Military Academy football team, at 12:15 p.m. in the Rose Garden. At 6 p.m., the president will present Tiger Woods with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in the Rose Garden.





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NYT'S ANNIE KARNI and KEVIN DRAPER: "In Tiger Woods, Trump Finds a Hero and a Business Opportunity": "Ever since Tiger Woods arrived on the public stage as a golf phenom at the age of 21, Donald J. Trump has been cultivating him as a celebrity who could add a sheen to his properties around the globe.

"After Mr. Woods won his first Masters title in 1997, he celebrated in Atlantic City at the Taj Mahal casino, eating pork chops and being photographed with the owner, Mr. Trump.

"Since then, Mr. Trump has named a villa after him at the Trump National Doral Miami. He has also gone into business abroad with Mr. Woods, announcing in 2014 that the golfer would design a course in Dubai as part of a luxury residential megaproject that would be managed by the Trump Organization." NYT

AP/CHICAGO: "Red Sox manager Alex Cora won't visit White House": "Cora cited the Trump administration's response to Hurricane Maria in his native Puerto Rico as the reason for his decision. 'The government has done some things back home that are great, but we still have a long ways to go,' he said on Sunday following a 9-2 win over the Chicago White Sox. 'That's our reality. It's pretty tough to go celebrate when we're where we're at. I'd rather not go and be consistent with everything.'" AP





PHOTO DU JOUR: Venezuelan demonstrators hold a vigil Sunday in support of Juan Guaidó after his failed uprising against the government. | Ronaldo Schmeidt/AFP/Getty Images

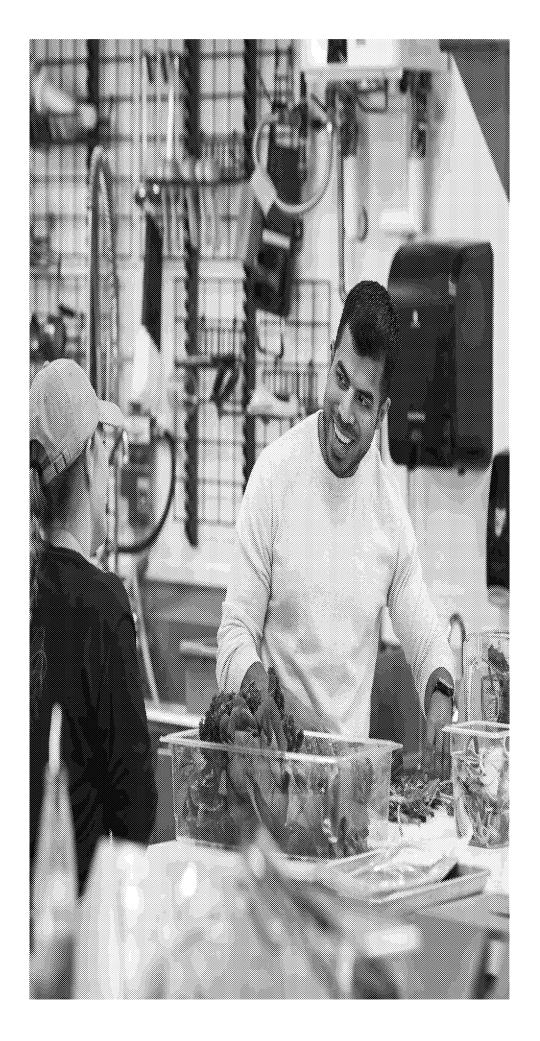
THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION -- "Trump taps Mark Morgan, former Obama official who supports border wall, to head ICE," by WaPo's Nick Miroff, Shane Harris and Josh Dawsey: "President Trump announced his choice as director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) on Sunday, tapping a former FBI official who frequently appears on cable news advocating for the president's immigration policies. ...

"In Morgan, Trump has found a vocal advocate for some of his positions, particularly the construction of a wall on the border with Mexico. Morgan has said such a wall would be an effective way to reduce illegal border crossings.

"Trump's Twitter announcement that Morgan 'will be joining the Trump administration as the head of our hard working men and women of ICE' caught White House aides and Homeland Security officials by surprise. They had not been informed Morgan was Trump's choice, and at ICE, senior leaders learned of the decision from the president's tweet, according to two senior administration officials." WaPo

GAZA LATEST -- <u>"Israel and Gaza militants agree to cease-fire after</u> weekend of violence," by WaPo's Loveday Morris and Hazem Balousha in Jerusalem

A message from Google:



EYE ON THE SKY ... SEATTLE TIMES: "Long before first 737 MAX crash, Boeing knew a key sensor warning light wasn't working, but told no one," by Dominic Gates: "Boeing admitted Sunday that it knew well over a year before the first crash of a 737 MAX in Indonesia last October that a warning light linked to a key sensor on the 737 MAX wasn't working on most of the airplanes, but it informed neither the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) nor the airlines operating the jet about the problem until after that crash.

"The warning light is significant because it warned of a malfunction in one of the jet's Angle of Attack (AOA) sensors, a fault that began the sequence of events that led to both the Lion Air crash in October and the Ethiopian Airlines crash in March.

"The alert worked only on planes flown by airlines that had bought a separate and optional AOA indicator added to the main flight display panel. Boeing disclosed the existence of the problem publicly only last week after a story in the Wall Street Journal. It disclosed its prior knowledge on Sunday only after a follow-up story.

"Furthermore, even MAX operators like American Airlines that had bought the optional indicator were misinformed by Boeing last year after the Lion Air crash about how the warning light operates." <u>Seattle Times</u>

AXIOS' JONATHAN SWAN: "Inside a top Trump adviser's fundraising mirage": "A political organization run by David Bossie, President Trump's former deputy campaign manager, has raised millions of dollars by saying it's supporting Trump-aligned conservative candidates — but has spent only a tiny fraction of that money supporting candidates. ...

"At least \$445,972 was spent on apparent book purchases. Copies of the Presidential Coalition's direct mailers — which Axios obtained and shared with CLC — show the organization offered people who donated above a certain amount (usually \$45) a copy of one of Bossie's books, "Trump's Enemies."" Axios

VALLEY TALK -- "Facebook Opens a Command Post to Thwart Election Meddling in Europe," by NYT's Adam Satariano in Dublin: "The cramped space

is home to Facebook's newly opened operations center to oversee the European Union's parliamentary election, which will be held May 23 to May 26 in 28 countries.

"Modeled after the 'war room' that the Silicon Valley company created before last year's midterm elections in the United States, the people inside are tasked with washing Facebook of misinformation, fake accounts and foreign meddling that could sway European voters." NYT

MEDIAWATCH ... CNN'S SARA MURRAY and BRIAN STELTER: "Anatomy of a smear: How far-right websites spread a fake story about Pete Buttigieg"

- -- SENTENCE DU JOUR ... WAPO'S SALLY JENKINS ON THE DERBY: "The stewards of Churchill Downs imposed an artificial order on 19 horses searching for solid footing while stampeding in a mire, the brown water pooling in mud-trench harrows, while 150,000 people wearing flower pots on their heads hollered at them." WaPo
- -- NPR's Morning Edition has changed its opening tune for the first time in 40 years. "It's not a decision that we took on lightly," Meg Goldthwaite, NPR's chief marketing officer, told the NYT. "We wanted to freshen the music and get it ready for what we hope will be another 50 years. It just felt like it was time." NYT



PLAYBOOKERS

SPOTTED: Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) sitting in first class Sunday on the delayed American Airlines flight 1855 from Charlotte to DCA. *Pic*

COMING ATTRACTIONS -- H.R. MCMASTER will receive the 15th annual Benjamin Franklin Award for Public Service at the Foreign Policy Research Institute's annual dinner on November 14 at the Union League of Philadelphia.

SCOOP -- **PER DANIEL LIPPMAN**: "Henry Muñoz, the longtime national finance chairman of the [DNC], is stepping down from the position after more than six years in the role, he told POLITICO. ... The party committee raised more than \$600 million while he was finance chair ... The DNC has named **Chris**

Korge, a Florida attorney who was a top fundraiser for Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign, as Muñoz's interim replacement. ...

"Although most Democratic presidential candidates aren't accepting corporate PAC money, the DNC's host committee has been talking to corporate sponsors in order to fund the July 2020 convention in Milwaukee, according to a person familiar with the matter." POLITICO

WEEKEND WEDDING -- HILLARY ALUMNI: Megan Nashban, a Democratic fundraiser and a Hillary for America alum, married attorney Dan Kenney. Everytown political director Chris Carr married the couple and Rep. Brendan Boyle (D-Pa.)'s chief of staff John McCarthy played piano. *Pic*

SPOTTED: Brynne Craig, Sabrina Singh and Mike Smith, Ben Jealous, Pia Carusone, Lauren Crawford Shaver, Vernessa Shih, Davey McKissick and John Lee, Punya Krishnappa, Erin Tibe, Karuna Seshasai and Tom Moran.

BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: Tucker Eskew, partner at Vianovo. **A fun fact about Tucker:** "I am shown/portrayed in two Jay Roach political movies ('Recount' and 'Game Change'), but I'd just as soon discuss garage rock and power pop with his wife, Susanna Hoffs of The Bangles." **Playbook Plus Q&A**

BIRTHDAYS: Tony Blair is 66 ... Sen. Richard Shelby (R-Ala.) is 85 ... Jamie Gorelick is 69 ... Daniel Jick ... Eric Fingerhut is 6-0 ... Sheena Mollineau, senior manager for corporate responsibility at PwC ... David Rogers ... WSJ's Jimmy Vielkind and Telis Demos ... Steve Lindsey is 63 ... Dani Lever, comms director for Gov. Cuomo ... Seth Freedland ... Spencer Pederson ... Cynara Lilly, principal at RALLY ... NPR alum Jennifer Longmire-Wright ... Cara Philbin ... Kevin Powers ... POLITICO's Claire Mullican ... James Kariuki, multilateral policy director at the UK's FCO ... Liza Romanow, director of comms for Madeleine Albright (hat tips: Ben Chang and Jacob Freedman) ... Stefan Friedman, partner at Mercury ... Gerald "Jerry" M. Levin is 8-0 ... Martha Nussbaum is 72 ...

... Bloomberg's Joe Nocera ... ICM Partners' Lauren Clark, who got engaged this weekend to Apple's Bradley Knitz, whose birthday is also today -- <u>pic</u> (h/t Brandon Shaw) ... Abraham David Sofaer is 81 ... Kate Henjum ... Connor Lentz ... Meghan Conklin ... Laura Evans ... Alyse Cohen is 31 (h/t Edith Gregson) ... Mark Armour ... Rod Rodriguez, president and CEO at Global War on Terrorism Memorial Foundation ... Lisa Roskelley ... Benjamin Levine ... Max Giammetta ...

Meek Mill is 32 ... Lisa Ferri ... Rebecca Powell Marx ... Natasha Mozgovaya ... Paul Schmitz is 5-0 ... Bob McCall ... Jim Williams ... Bill Dolbow ... WH alum John Roberts ... Rosa Puech ... Jim Ramstad is 73 (h/ts Teresa Vilmain)

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MORNINGMEDIA

05/02/2019 05:28 AM EDT

By BLAKE HOUNSHELL (bhounshell@politico.com; @blakehounshell)



Attorney General William Barr has a light moment during Wednesday's Senate testimony.

The Mueller report is, in many ways, a media story.

Journalists spent the final months of 2016 chasing down leads from a closely held "dossier" that was meant to influence their reporting on Donald Trump, given its origins as an opposition research project. When BuzzFeed published the dossier, a 35-page compilation of raw and often lurid memos

compiled by former British intelligence officer Christopher Steele, it set off a frenzy of stories suggesting that America's new president had illicit ties to Russia.

Meanwhile, dramatic leaks from inside the government spurred demands for a robust investigation, ultimately culminating in FBI director James Comey's firing and the appointment of special counsel Robert Mueller.

Simply put, the Mueller report wouldn't exist without the press.

Media reporting on the president, his campaign's dealings with Russia and his attempts to influence the investigation is marbled throughout the special counsel's findings - the 448-page document includes nearly 200 citations to individual media stories ranging across a total of more than 2,300 footnotes.

No wonder President Trump spent the last two years lambasting the "fake news" reports on his Russia ties and blasting Mueller's "witch hunt" against him.

Then on Wednesday, we were treated to some media criticism from **BILL BARR**. The attorney general claimed during his Senate hearing that Mueller -- who sent him a letter complaining that Barr's fourpage memo relaying the special counsel's top-line conclusions was misleading -- was *really* complaining about the press coverage.

"I received the letter and called Bob and said what's the issue here?" Barr said. "I asked him if he was suggesting that the March 24th letter was inaccurate and he said no, but that the press reporting had been inaccurate. And that the press was reading too much into it."

The media was also the centerpiece of one of the most damning passages in the Mueller report: President Trump's demand that White House Counsel Don McGahn correct a <u>New York Times story</u> reporting that the president had asked him to fire Mueller. ("Fake news," Trump said at the time. "A typical New York Times fake story.")

McGahn refused. Trump later asked McGahn to create a note "for our records" saying the Times had it wrong, and again McGahn said no. The incident, Mueller concluded, "indicates the president was not focused solely on a press strategy but instead likely contemplated the ongoing investigation."

In Wednesday's hearing, Barr contradicted Mueller's interpretation of Trump's intent. "As the report indicates," he said, "it could also have been the case that he was primarily concerned about press reports and making it clear that he never outright directed the firing of Mueller."

Barr also claimed that when he told senators at an earlier hearing, "I don't know whether Bob Mueller supported my conclusion," he was referring to <u>another New York Times story</u> reporting that some members of Mueller's team were unhappy with his four-page letter.

One of those members, it turns out, was Robert S. Mueller himself.

WELCOME TO MORNING MEDIA: Blake Hounshell here filling in for Michael Calderone, who was off Wednesday. Jordyn Hermani, Daniel Lippman and Garrett Ross contributed to the newsletter. Subscribe. Archives.

THE BREAKDOWN: The New Yorker's Isaac Chotiner <u>spoke to</u> the NYT's investigative aces Mark Mazzetti and Mike Schmidt to get their perspective on the latest turn of the screw in the Mueller saga and some of the questions they still have amid the fallout.

BARR ALSO REVEALED in his testimony Wednesday that DOJ is actively looking at an unspecified number of leaks to the media for potential criminal charges, with some prompting from Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa):

-- **Grassley:** "There have been a number of leaks coming out of the Justice Department and FBI during high-profile investigations. The inspector general found during the department's investigation of Hillary Clinton for mishandling highly classified information, there was a culture of unauthorized media contacts. During the Russia investigation, the leaks continued.

"Leaks undermine the ability of investigators to investigate. Further leaks to the papers while Congress' questions to the department go unanswered is unacceptable. Why? What are you doing to investigate unauthorized media contacts by the department and FBI officials during the Russian investigation?"

-- BARR: "We have multiple criminal leak investigations underway."

NATASHA BERTRAND: "Barr reviewing Steele dossier's allegations"

CNN'S OLIVER DARCY (@oliverdarcy): "One winner of Barr hearings: hyper-partisan news sites. Plenty of material to go around that fits into left/right ideological prisms. The hyper-partisan sites on right are publishing content favorable to Barr, while on left they're raking in clicks hyping content critical of him."

-- COMING ATTRACTIONS: CNN is hosting a town hall on May 9 with ... James Comey.

Are you a young lawyer or law student? Join POLITICO Editor Carrie Budoff Brown for an exciting conversation about 2020, politics and media at the <u>American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division Spring Conference</u>, May 2-4, in Washington, D.C. Registration is available onsite.

AP: "UK defense secretary fired over Huawei leaks"

SORTA MEET THE PRESS: So far, Democratic presidential front-runner Joe Biden isn't taking questions from journalists during media gaggles on his campaign stops, my colleague **Marc Caputo** notes. Nor is he fielding questions from members of the audience at his events, though he is working the rope lines and talking to voters fairly often. And Biden did take a few questions from select pool reporters at a carefully staged event.

- -- Why the caution? Biden has had a great week since his announcement. He's tops in the polls and increasing his lead. He's leading in endorsements. And President Trump is rage-tweeting him, making Biden look like the Democrat who most worries the president. No reason to mess that up for the oncegaffe-prone former VP if he winds up in a media scrum.
- -- Natasha Korecki adds: "If he doesn't take questions he'll be unlike others in the field. Warren does it at every event. Even Buttigieg took questions at a 1,600-person rally and I believe Bernie is doing the same now. They're submitted to staff and then the candidate reads it from the stage."



Stephen Colbert will be leaping into the fray right after the first Democratic debates. | AP Photo

THE LATE SHOW WITH STEPHEN COLBERT will broadcast live shows following the first two Democratic debates at 11:35 p.m. ET on Wednesday, June 26 and Thursday, June 27. The two shows will make the 20th and 21st live broadcasts of "The Late Show," with its last coming after the State of the Union in February.

DEEP DIVE -- "How an anti-Semitic cartoon ended up in The New York Times," by CNN's Brian Stelter, Hadas Gold and Oliver Darcy: "In interviews this week, 16 Times staffers described a short-staffed international publication; an opinion section prone to self-inflicted wounds; and an ongoing debate about the newspaper's biases and blind spots. ...

"[On Wednesday, publisher A.G.] Sulzberger spoke out about the cartoon for the first time. He wrote in an internal memo that 'we are taking disciplinary steps' with the editor involved, and making a series of procedural changes to 'ensure adequate oversight.'" <u>CNN</u>

JOSHUA BENTON: "Want to see what one digital future for newspapers looks like? Look at The Guardian, which isn't losing money anymore: It's a remarkable turnaround for an institution

that's been losing money for what seems like forever, and there are lessons to be had for other digital publishers." <u>NIEMAN LAB</u>

There's a new POLITICO newsletter in town. Authored by Cristiano Lima and Zack Stanton, POLITICO's Westeros Playbook is the must-read guide to what's happening in the final season of "Game of Thrones.?? <u>Sign up</u> to receive POLITICO Westeros Playbook every Monday for the duration of the final season.

VOX'S EZRA KLEIN and **RECODE'S KARA SWISHER** lay out the new partnership between the two media organizations in a joint introduction. "The future of technology is a political story. The future of politics is a technological story. If we're going to understand the changing world around us, the old coverage silos no longer make sense. And so we're breaking them down. Recode and Vox are joining forces," Klein and Swisher <u>write</u>. "Vox explains the news. Recode understands technology and media. Together, as the world can seem ever more senseless, we will try to make sense of it for you."

VICE announced Wednesday that its website will be undergoing a redesign, dropping its "standalone verticals/brands/channels" in favor of unified sections. The nine new sections are: News, Identity, Entertainment, Music, Food, Tech, Games, Health, and Drugs. Some more nuggets from the announcement: the introduction of VICE Stories, an "industry-first vertical video feature; and the introduction of a new documentary series, "The Contenders," exploring "the untold stories, records and defining biographical moments behind the current raft of 2020 presidential candidates."

-- "Sophie Schmidt Will Launch A New Tech Publication With An International Focus," by BuzzFeed's Joe Bernstein: "Sophie Schmidt, a tech industry veteran and the daughter of Eric Schmidt, the former Google and Alphabet executive chair, is starting a new publication about the effects of technology on the non-Western world, BuzzFeed News has learned."The 32-year-old Schmidt plans to self-fund the journalism nonprofit initially, and hopes to launch it by the end of the year, according to a source familiar with the effort." <u>BuzzFeed News-- CANDACE OWENS</u> has left her position as communications director at Turning Point USA, she <u>wrote</u> on Instagram.

Media citations in the Mueller report, compiled by POLITICO researcher Jordyn Hermani. The number indicates the total number of unique times cited, ranked by news outlet:

NYT: 41

WaPo: 38	
CNN: 18	
NBC: 14	
C-SPAN: 9	
Fox News: 8	
Reuters: 8	
POLITICO: 6	
ABC News: 5	
Bloomberg: 3	
Guardian: 3	
New York Post: 3	
The Atlantic: 3	
BuzzFeed News: 2	
Kyiv Post: 2	
Yahoo! News: 2	
Associated Press: 1	
Business Insider: 1	
CBS: 1	
Chris Hayes: 1	
Circa: 1	
Cleveland Plain Dealer: 1	
CNBC: 1	

Columbia Journalism Review: 1	
Foreign Policy: 1	
Interfax: 1	
L.A. Times: 1	
National Review: 1	
Newsweek: 1	
PBS: 1	
Talking Points Memo: 1	
Time: 1	
USA Today 1	
U.S. News and World Report: 1	
Washington Examiner: 1	
Wired: 1	
WSJ: 1	
	REVOLVING DOOR

- **Paul Maidment** will be the new editor in chief of G/O Media, Inc., which owns The Onion and the former Gizmodo empire. The move comes after G/O Media recently laid off 25 staffers. "Maidment will lead editorial oversight of G/O Media properties, including Splinter, Gizmodo, Jezebel, Jalopnik, Deadspin, The Root, Lifehacker, and Kotaku," Wednesday's release reads.
- **Chavie Lieber** will be a tech correspondent at The Business of Fashion. She is currently a reporter at Vox, where she will leave at the end of the week, Talking Biz News <u>reports</u>.
- **Heather Richards** will be an energy and environment reporter at E&E News. She currently is an energy reporter at Wyoming's Casper Star-Tribune, TBN <u>reports</u>.



- **REMEMBERING BILL FLEISCHMAN:** "[F]or Fleischman, 80, who passed away Wednesday after a battle with cancer, hockey was the favorite subject. With a wit as sharp as a two-handed slash across the ankles and an eye for bringing to light the personalities of the players he covered, Mr. Fleischman was on the Flyers beat during their glory years of the 1970s." *By Ed Barkowitz*, <u>Philly.com</u>
- MICHAEL KELLY AWARD FINALISTS: The Atlantic released the names of four journalists the magazine is honoring for their "fearless pursuit and expression of truth in journalism." The awardees: Hannah Dreier of ProPublica; Christine Kenneally of BuzzFeed News; Maggie Michael, Nariman El-Mofty and Maad al-Zikry of The Associated Press; and Connor Sheets from Alabama Media Group. The winner will be announced on May 23. *The finalists*
- THE LIVINGSTON AWARDS FOR YOUNG JOURNALISTS and the University of Michigan released the list of finalists for this year's awards in local, national and international reporting by journalists under the age of 35. One of the finalists is Emily Gogolak, who reported on the effects of Trump's immigration policies for POLITICO Magazine. (*The 55 finalists* ... *Their works* ... *The POLITICO Mag story*)
- THE HERB BLOCK FOUNDATION will present the 2019 Herblock Prize for editorial cartoonists, "second only to the Pulitzer," our colleague Matt Wuerker tells us to Newsday's Matt Davies at the Library of Congress on Thursday. Amateur cartoonist and CNN anchor Jake Tapper will be the featured speaker.
- **-QUOTABLE:** Reddit's Will Cady at the Social Media Week summit in New York: "We're not tired of social media. We're tired of being assholes."

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05/02/2019 05:28 AM EDT

By BLAKE HOUNSHELL (bhounshell@politico.com; @blakehounshell)

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The Mueller report is, in many ways, a media story.

Journalists spent the final months of 2016 chasing down leads from a closely held "dossier" that was meant to influence their reporting on Donald Trump, given its origins as an opposition research project. When BuzzFeed published the dossier, a 35-page compilation of raw and often lurid memos compiled by former British intelligence officer Christopher Steele, it set off a frenzy of stories suggesting that America's new president had illicit ties to Russia.

Meanwhile, dramatic leaks from inside the government spurred demands for a robust investigation, ultimately culminating in FBI director James Comey's firing and the appointment of special counsel Robert Mueller.

Simply put, the Mueller report wouldn't exist without the press.

Media reporting on the president, his campaign's dealings with Russia and his attempts to influence the investigation is marbled throughout the special counsel's findings - the 448-page document includes nearly 200 citations to individual media stories ranging across a total of more than 2,300 footnotes.

No wonder President Trump spent the last two years lambasting the "fake news" reports on his Russia ties and blasting Mueller's "witch hunt" against him.

Then on Wednesday, we were treated to some media criticism from **BILL BARR**. The attorney general claimed during his Senate hearing that Mueller -- who sent him a letter complaining that Barr's four-page memo relaying the special counsel's top-line conclusions was misleading -- was *really* complaining about the press coverage.

"I received the letter and called Bob and said what's the issue here?" Barr said. "I asked him if he was suggesting that the March 24th letter was inaccurate and he said no, but that the press reporting had been inaccurate. And that the press was reading too much into it."

The media was also the centerpiece of one of the most damning passages in the Mueller report: President Trump's demand that White House Counsel Don McGahn correct a <u>New York Times story</u> reporting that the president had asked him to fire Mueller. ("Fake news," Trump said at the time. "A typical New York Times fake

story.")

McGahn refused. Trump later asked McGahn to create a note "for our records" saying the Times had it wrong, and again McGahn said no. The incident, Mueller concluded, "indicates the president was not focused solely on a press strategy but instead likely contemplated the ongoing investigation."

In Wednesday's hearing, Barr contradicted Mueller's interpretation of Trump's intent. "As the report indicates," he said, "it could also have been the case that he was primarily concerned about press reports and making it clear that he never outright directed the firing of Mueller."

Barr also claimed that when he told senators at an earlier hearing, "I don't know whether Bob Mueller supported my conclusion," he was referring to <u>another New York Times story</u> reporting that some members of Mueller's team were unhappy with his four-page letter.

One of those members, it turns out, was Robert S. Mueller himself.

WELCOME TO MORNING MEDIA: Blake Hounshell here filling in for Michael Calderone, who was off Wednesday. Jordyn Hermani, Daniel Lippman and Garrett Ross contributed to the newsletter. <u>Subscribe</u>. Archives.

THE BREAKDOWN: The New Yorker's Isaac Chotiner <u>spoke to</u> the NYT's investigative aces Mark Mazzetti and Mike Schmidt to get their perspective on the latest turn of the screw in the Mueller saga and some of the questions they still have amid the fallout.

BARR ALSO REVEALED in his testimony Wednesday that DOJ is actively looking at an unspecified number of leaks to the media for potential criminal charges, with some prompting from Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa):

- -- **Grassley:** "There have been a number of leaks coming out of the Justice Department and FBI during high-profile investigations. The inspector general found during the department's investigation of Hillary Clinton for mishandling highly classified information, there was a culture of unauthorized media contacts. During the Russia investigation, the leaks continued.
- "Leaks undermine the ability of investigators to investigate. Further leaks to the papers while Congress' questions to the department go unanswered is unacceptable. Why? What are you doing to investigate unauthorized media contacts by the department and FBI officials during the Russian investigation?"
- -- BARR: "We have multiple criminal leak investigations underway."

NATASHA BERTRAND: "Barr reviewing Steele dossier's allegations"

CNN'S OLIVER DARCY (@oliverdarcy): "One winner of Barr hearings: hyper-partisan news sites. Plenty of material to go around that fits into left/right ideological prisms. The hyper-partisan sites on right are publishing content favorable to Barr, while on left they're raking in clicks hyping content critical of him."

-- COMING ATTRACTIONS: CNN is hosting a town hall on May 9 with ... James Comey.

Are you a young lawyer or law student? Join POLITICO Editor Carrie Budoff Brown for an exciting

conversation about 2020, politics and media at the <u>American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division</u> Spring Conference, May 2-4, in Washington, D.C. Registration is available on-site.

AP: "UK defense secretary fired over Huawei leaks"

SORTA MEET THE PRESS: So far, Democratic presidential front-runner Joe Biden isn't taking questions from journalists during media gaggles on his campaign stops, my colleague **Marc Caputo** notes. Nor is he fielding questions from members of the audience at his events, though he is working the rope lines and talking to voters fairly often. And Biden did take a few questions from select pool reporters at a carefully staged event.

- -- Why the caution? Biden has had a great week since his announcement. He's tops in the polls and increasing his lead. He's leading in endorsements. And President Trump is rage-tweeting him, making Biden look like the Democrat who most worries the president. No reason to mess that up for the once-gaffe-prone former VP if he winds up in a media scrum.
- -- Natasha Korecki adds: "If he doesn't take questions he'll be unlike others in the field. Warren does it at every event. Even Buttigieg took questions at a 1,600-person rally and I believe Bernie is doing the same now. They're submitted to staff and then the candidate reads it from the stage."

Stephen Colbert will be leaping into the fray right after the first Democratic debates. | AP Photo

THE LATE SHOW WITH STEPHEN COLBERT will broadcast live shows following the first two Democratic debates at 11:35 p.m. ET on Wednesday, June 26 and Thursday, June 27. The two shows will make the 20th and 21st live broadcasts of "The Late Show," with its last coming after the State of the Union in February.

DEEP DIVE -- "How an anti-Semitic cartoon ended up in The New York Times," by CNN's Brian Stelter, Hadas Gold and Oliver Darcy: "In interviews this week, 16 Times staffers described a short-staffed international publication; an opinion section prone to self-inflicted wounds; and an ongoing debate about the newspaper's biases and blind spots. ...

"[On Wednesday, publisher A.G.] Sulzberger spoke out about the cartoon for the first time. He wrote in an internal memo that 'we are taking disciplinary steps' with the editor involved, and making a series of procedural changes to 'ensure adequate oversight.'" CNN

JOSHUA BENTON: "Want to see what one digital future for newspapers looks like? Look at The Guardian, which isn't losing money anymore: It's a remarkable turnaround for an institution that's been losing money for what seems like forever, and there are lessons to be had for other digital publishers." NIEMAN LAB

There's a new POLITICO newsletter in town. Authored by Cristiano Lima and Zack Stanton, POLITICO's Westeros Playbook is the must-read guide to what's happening in the final season of "Game

Seife v. EPA (1:19-cv-05190)

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of Thrones.?? <u>Sign up</u> to receive POLITICO Westeros Playbook every Monday for the duration of the final season.

VOX'S EZRA KLEIN and **RECODE'S KARA SWISHER** lay out the new partnership between the two media organizations in a joint introduction. "The future of technology is a political story. The future of politics is a technological story. If we're going to understand the changing world around us, the old coverage silos no longer make sense. And so we're breaking them down. Recode and Vox are joining forces," Klein and Swisher <u>write</u>. "Vox explains the news. Recode understands technology and media. Together, as the world can seem ever more senseless, we will try to make sense of it for you."

VICE announced Wednesday that its website will be undergoing a redesign, dropping its "stand-alone verticals/brands/channels" in favor of unified sections. The nine new sections are: News, Identity, Entertainment, Music, Food, Tech, Games, Health, and Drugs. Some more nuggets from the announcement: the introduction of VICE Stories, an "industry-first vertical video feature; and the introduction of a new documentary series, "The Contenders," exploring "the untold stories, records and defining biographical moments behind the current raft of 2020 presidential candidates."

-- "Sophie Schmidt Will Launch A New Tech Publication With An International Focus," by BuzzFeed's Joe Bernstein: "Sophie Schmidt, a tech industry veteran and the daughter of Eric Schmidt, the former Google and Alphabet executive chair, is starting a new publication about the effects of technology on the non-Western world, BuzzFeed News has learned."The 32-year-old Schmidt plans to self-fund the journalism nonprofit initially, and hopes to launch it by the end of the year, according to a source familiar with the effort." BuzzFeed News-- CANDACE OWENS has left her position as communications director at Turning Point USA, she wrote on Instagram.

Media citations in the Mueller report, compiled by POLITICO researcher Jordyn Hermani. The number indicates the total number of unique times cited, ranked by news outlet:

NYT: 41

WaPo: 38

CNN: 18

NBC: 14

C-SPAN: 9

Fox News: 8

Reuters: 8

POLITICO: 6

ABC News: 5

Bloomberg: 3
Guardian: 3
New York Post: 3
The Atlantic: 3
BuzzFeed News: 2
Kyiv Post: 2
Yahoo! News: 2
Associated Press: 1
Business Insider: 1
CBS: 1
Chris Hayes: 1
Circa: 1
Cleveland Plain Dealer: 1
CNBC: 1
Columbia Journalism Review: 1
Foreign Policy: 1
Interfax: 1
L.A. Times: 1
National Review: 1
Newsweek: 1
PBS: 1
Talking Points Memo: 1
Time: 1
USA Today 1
U.S. News and World Report: 1
Washington Examiner: 1
Wired: 1

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REVOLVING DOOR

- **Paul Maidment** will be the new editor in chief of G/O Media, Inc., which owns The Onion and the former Gizmodo empire. The move comes after G/O Media recently laid off 25 staffers. "Maidment will lead editorial oversight of G/O Media properties, including Splinter, Gizmodo, Jezebel, Jalopnik, Deadspin, The Root, Lifehacker, and Kotaku," Wednesday's release reads.
- **Chavie Lieber** will be a tech correspondent at The Business of Fashion. She is currently a reporter at Vox, where she will leave at the end of the week, Talking Biz News <u>reports</u>.
- **Heather Richards** will be an energy and environment reporter at E&E News. She currently is an energy reporter at Wyoming's Casper Star-Tribune, TBN reports.



- **REMEMBERING BILL FLEISCHMAN:** "[F]or Fleischman, 80, who passed away Wednesday after a battle with cancer, hockey was the favorite subject. With a wit as sharp as a two-handed slash across the ankles and an eye for bringing to light the personalities of the players he covered, Mr. Fleischman was on the Flyers beat during their glory years of the 1970s." By Ed Barkowitz, Philly.com
 - MICHAEL KELLY AWARD FINALISTS: The Atlantic released the names of four journalists the magazine is honoring for their "fearless pursuit and expression of truth in journalism." The awardees: Hannah Dreier of ProPublica; Christine Kenneally of BuzzFeed News; Maggie Michael, Nariman El-Mofty and Maad al-Zikry of The Associated Press; and Connor Sheets from Alabama Media Group. The winner will be announced on May 23. *The finalists*
- **THE LIVINGSTON AWARDS FOR YOUNG JOURNALISTS** and the University of Michigan released the list of finalists for this year's awards in local, national and international reporting by journalists under the age of 35. One of the finalists is Emily Gogolak, who reported on the effects of Trump's immigration policies for POLITICO Magazine. (*The 55 finalists ... Their works ... The POLITICO Mag story*)
- THE HERB BLOCK FOUNDATION will present the 2019 Herblock Prize for editorial cartoonists, "second only to the Pulitzer," our colleague Matt Wuerker tells us to Newsday's Matt Davies at the Library of Congress on Thursday. Amateur cartoonist and CNN anchor Jake Tapper will be the featured speaker.
 - **-QUOTABLE:** Reddit's Will Cady at the Social Media Week summit in New York: "We're not tired of social media. We're tired of being assholes."

View online

To: Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]
From: Tucker Hart[HartT@cbsnews.com]
Sent: Sat 4/27/2019 6:21:28 PM (UTC)

Subject: "FACE THE NATION" INTERVIEW WITH IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER JAVAD ZARIF

FACE THE NATION

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"FACE THE NATION" INTERVIEW WITH IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER JAVAD ZARIF

NO EMBARGO

Margaret Brennan's Interview of Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, taped Thursday, April 25 in New York City. An edited version of the interview will air on the Sunday, April 28th broadcast of Face the Nation.

Full transcript is included below & here:

MARGARET BRENNAN: Minister Zarif, you publicly floated this idea of a prisoner exchange with the U.S. What would that look like?

FOREIGN MINISTER JAVAD ZARIF: Well, we've done it before. We had a possibility of getting the release of some Iranians who were in U.S. jails or were under probation in the United States. We removed them from that circumstances and- and then some U.S.-Iranians who were in jail in Iran were released. I think we can do it again. We- the administration- the previous administration was trying to engage in that. The new administration initially showed interest. We made an offer in September that we are ready, and we are ready.

MARGARET BRENNAN: You made an offer to the Trump administration in September to begin negotiating--

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: We responded- we responded to the offer that they had actually made to engage and we are waiting for a reply.

MARGARET BRENNAN: Who are you asking to be released from US prisons?

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: Well there are a number of Iranians who are in U.S. jails for sanctions violations. There are a number of Iranians who are in jail all over the world. On pressure, on pressure—

MARGARET BRENNAN: But who would you want for the Americans?

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: These are- are on pressure from the United States either on extradition request or on sort of behind the scenes pressure and arm twisting.

MARGARET BRENNAN: So have you presented the U.S. with a list?

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: They know.

MARGARET BRENNAN: They know?

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: They know this is not- this is nothing new. This is a continuation of

the previous exchange.

MARGARET BRENNAN: Why not, as a- a show of your seriousness here, release some of the at least five Americans who are currently imprisoned in Iran?

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: We're not supposed to show seriousness because we have shown our seriousness by implementing the nuclear deal. It's the United States that needs to prove that it's serious.

MARGARET BRENNAN: Are you linking the two?

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: No, we're not linking the two, it's just the experience. We've shown that when we say something, we abide by it. The United States has shown that when we say- it-they say something they will- they will then decide whether they want to abide by it or not.

MARGARET BRENNAN: So- but what about someone like Baquer Namazi? He's in his 80s-

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: He's not in jail.

MARGARET BRENNAN: --his health is failing--

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: He's not in jail.

MARGARET BRENNAN: --he is still- he still has to report to Evin Prison. He is still restricted from getting medical care outside of Iran. Why not allow him to leave to get that care?

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: Well, you see, I am responsible for foreign policy. I'm not responsible for interfering in court's decisions. I can intervene when there is an exchange, an offer of exchange. I cannot intervene as foreign minister. I can intervene as a private individual on humanitarian basis, and I do, I do. But as foreign minister, I do not have a standing in any Iranian court unless I can engage in an exchange with Iranians who are wrongfully, in our view, detained either inside the United States or elsewhere. We have people, we have- we have ladies who were pregnant when they were detained who gave birth in prison, who were not even given a- released on bail to deliver outside prison. We have people with heart conditions. We have people with terminal cancer in there.

MARGARET BRENNAN: But Baquer Namazi's health is failing--

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: He--

MARGARET BRENNAN: --if he dies in Iranian custody in Iran, isn't that really damaging to all parts of policy?

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: Well, you see, that's not- that's not a decision that I can make. I make- I-I- I have--

MARGARET BRENNAN: It's not in your power to let him leave?

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: Yeah, I don't have a standing. I will find a standing when there is an exchange. That is why I- it is in my- in the purview of my responsibility to offer that possibility.

MARGARET BRENNAN: So you would offer to swap the at least five Americans there for five Iranians?

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: No, no, no. I mean it's all for us. We have to- we have to see. I mean human beings, we- we- we don't count them.

MARGARET BRENNAN: Because some would say, you know, skeptics would look at that and say this is a PR ploy, that you're just saying this.

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: No, it's not a PR ploy. We've done it before. Was this a PR ploy when we did it before?

MARGARET BRENNAN: In parallel with the nuclear deal, the nuclear negotiations.

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: No, no, no. It had nothing to do with the nuclear deal. It- I mean we did it because we were sitting together. We did a number of deeds, this was one of them, but it was just because we were willing to discuss this issue.

MARGARET BRENNAN: And you're offering to discuss this issue right now with who, the secretary of state?

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: No, we- the- the US has a person responsible for this. We have a person responsible for this. If they are of the same rank they can- they can meet if they're not of the same rank, we will appoint somebody of the- of the rank of the person who's representing the United States.

MARGARET BRENNAN: So the letter you received from Ambassador O'Brien who handles hostage issues--

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: We didn't--

MARGARET BRENNAN: --you would allow him to sit and talk with your deputy?

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: No, we won't allow somebody who handles hostage issue to- to deal with them because they're not hostages, they're prisoners.

MARGARET BRENNAN: So who is actually- who are you willing to talk to about this?

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: We're willing to talk to anybody who's willing to respect Iran and deal with this issue. We- we don't have anything against Ambassador O'Brien, but we will not deal with the hostage negotiator unless they want us to appoint somebody as our hostage negotiator so that they discuss about Iranian hostages in U.S. jail. You see the United States cannot put itself in a different moral position. It's holding Iranians who are sick, who have done no crime in jail in Germany, in Australia, in--

MARGARET BRENNAN: But that is what the lawyers for Siamak Namazi, someone you knew, Baquer Namazi, a- a Princeton scholar, Xiyue Wang, would all say these are people who haven't committed crimes--

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: Yeah.

MARGARET BRENNAN: --who are Americans behind bars in Iran.

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: Yeah, that-that's what I'm saying. People who are in-lingering in jails all over the world and in the U.S.A., their lawyers would say that they have not committed any crime that they're innocent. One of them was involved, at least was accused of, and they haven't been tried, they're just waiting for extradition. They're just there because of U.S. pressure. So, these are cases where we believe our prisoners are in prison on bogus charges. The United States believes that they are in prison in Iran on bogus charges.

MARGARET BRENNAN: So anyone who is in a--

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: So let's not-let's not debate that because that's not my responsibility. I have enough responsibility on my shoulders to prevent a war, to try to circumvent U.S. attempts to prevent Iran from engaging in what is legally ours, and that is normal economic relations. So, I do this as a part of my job, as foreign minister to exchange people without attribution of guilt. Simply to make it possible for people to go back home.

MARGARET BRENNAN: You mentioned that part of your job is to prevent war. There have been tensions rising between the U.S. and the- the Trump Administration and the Iranian government, tensions have been rising over the past few months. Are you actually saying that we're headed on a path towards conflict?

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: We do not want conflict, we do not want confrontation, but we haven't survived 7000 years by escaping. We resist, but we are not seeking confrontation. We don't believe that President Trump wants confrontation. But, we know that there are people who are pushing for one.

MARGARET BRENNAN: You--

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: I don't think it will happen.

MARGARET BRENNAN: Military confrontation you don't think will happen--

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: I don't think military confrontation will happen. I think people have more prudence than allowing a military confrontation to happen. But, I think the U.S. administration is putting things in place for accidents to happen. And there has to be extreme vigilance, so that people who are planning this type of accident would not have their way.

MARGARET BRENNAN: What do you mean? What kind of accident are you talking about?

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: I'm talking about people who have- who are designing confrontation, whose interest--

MARGARET BRENNAN: Who's doing that?

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: My 'B' team. I call--

MARGARET BRENNAN: What do you mean 'B' team?

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: I call the group 'B' team who have always tried to create tension, whose continued existence depends on tension. Ambassador Bolton, one 'B,' Bibi Netanyahu, second 'B,' Bin Zayed, third 'B,' Bin Salman, fourth 'B.' And I'm not just making accusations. Netanyahu has said that he pressured the United States to put IRGC on- on the terror list. He has said--

MARGARET BRENNAN: Designate them as a foreign terrorist organization?

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: He has said that he pushed the United States to get out of JCPOA. Ambassador Bolton has said that we need to use the Trump presidency in order to deal with Iran. Bin Zayed and Bin Salman have been the two people who President Trump said promised to replace Iranian Oil. These people want confrontation, and I believe it is important for the prudent people for the grown-ups to prevent confrontation.

MARGARET BRENNAN: Who are the- the grown-ups that you're talking about.? When- when you and I sat down and spoke, just a year or more ago, you said that your president refused to meet with President Trump here in New York. Do you regret that now?

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: No we don't.

MARGARET BRENNAN: Do you think--

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: No we don't because--

MARGARET BRENNAN: --that the two leaders need to meet?

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: --because we meet based on mutual respect. We cannot meet somebody who is not respectful, who has violated his country's international obligations, who has withdrawn from agreements. You see, you meet for what? You don't meet for a photo op. You meet in order to reach some sort of conclusion. But we have a conclusion. We have 100- I mean- I mean it's not a photo op and a two page document. We have hundred and fifty pages of carefully negotiated agreement- not a bilateral agreement between Iran and the United States--

MARGARET BRENNAN: The nuclear deal?

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: --a multilateral agreement endorsed by the Security Council, where the United States is a permanent member. So if- if the United States does not respect that, what would it respect?

MARGARET BRENNAN: So there is no point in having President Trump and President Rouhani meet?

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: Well, there won't be any point in having them meet unless the United States is willing to show that it is a reliable partner and it has failed to do so. Not just to Iran. I mean it has- it has withdrawn from UNESCO. It has withdrawn from NAFTA. It has withdrawn from Trans-Pacific Partnership, TPP. It has withdrawn from the Human Rights Council. I mean it- it withdrawn from- recently withdrawn from INF. So it's not a matter of a presidential agreement, it has withdrawn from treaties, it has withdrawn from organizations.

MARGARET BRENNAN: So when you look at these summits between Kim Jong Un of North Korea and President Trump, at the leaders level, and you see that North Korea, which already actually has a nuclear program and ballistic missiles program, gets that kind of face to face time, possibility for a diplomatic deal, it-you don't look at that and say, maybe you made the wrong call? Maybe we do need to speak directly to President Trump?

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: Well, we did speak directly to the United States. Whether the United States is led by President Trump or President Obama is not our choice, is the choice of the American people. We- we did have probably the longest discussion with a man, who was to the best of my knowledge the Secretary of State of the United States confirmed by the U.S. Senate, appointed by a president elected by both popular, as well as, electoral vote. And this administration has decided to refuse the deal they made.

MARGARET BRENNAN: You're talking about John Kerry?

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: I'm talking about Secretary John Kerry.

MARGARET BRENNAN: Secretary John Kerry. Do you still speak with him? President Trump says you're getting bad advice from him.

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: I'm not getting any advice from any foreigner. You see, President Trump--

MARGARET BRENNAN: But you are still speaking with him?

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: President Trump needs to look at the history of Iran. We didn't survive 7,000 years by acting on the advice of foreigners.

MARGARET BRENNAN: But when President Trump says things, like he did on his Twitter account the other day, that you're speaking and getting bad advice from Secretary of State, the former Secretary of State John Kerry. He seems to be suggesting, this idea that, as some of the many Democratic candidates have said if they become president next, they could come back to the nuclear deal that you helped to negotiate--

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: We do- we do- not design our strategy based on expectations of what will happen in the United States two years down the road or four years down the road.

MARGARET BRENNAN: Would it be possible for the U.S. to rejoin this deal you're talking about?

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: Well it's a- it's a negotiating table that is still there. We did not leave that negotiating table. The United States was the party that left the negotiating table. The rest of the U- the JCPOA participants are still there. It's not automatic. I mean, the United States has harmed a lot of people.

MARGARET BRENNAN: Are you talking with other Democrats?

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: I'm not specifically talking with anybody. I'm talking with anybody who wants to talk to me. We're- we're- talking to members of the media, we're talking to members of think tanks.

MARGARET BRENNAN: And former members of the administration. Are you speaking with anyone from the current administration?

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: No.

MARGARET BRENNAN: There's no contact between U.S. and Iran at all right now?

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: None that I- I know of. And I- I think I know pretty much everything that is happening between Iran and the U.S.

MARGARET BRENNAN: Will Iran continue to abide by the international agreement, the JCPOA that you helped to negotiate?

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: Well we have abided by JCPOA up until now.

MARGARET BRENNAN: Right.

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: 14 IAEA reports indicate that we have. But we have a number of options, and our people are the final arbiter.

MARGARET BRENNAN: But when it- you know this deal, I mean you were one of the architects of it, you- you know the ins and outs of it.

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: Yeah.

MARGARET BRENNAN: October 2020, the fall of 2020 there is this U.N. arms embargo that gets lifted that would allow Iran to go and buy conventional weapons.

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: Yeah.

MARGARET BRENNAN: What happens then? That's right on the cusp of a U.S. presidential election.

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: Well--

MARGARET BRENNAN: There's a lot of tension at that moment.

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: --part of the deal. These- these dates--

MARGARET BRENNAN: So Iran intends to go ahead with those purchases?

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: These dates were negotiated, were the subject of lengthy negotiations. It doesn't mean that in October 2020, we will be buying 67 billion dollars worth of weapons that Saudi Arabia is buying. We don't have that type of money. I mean last year we spent 16 billion dollars on our defense. Saudi Arabia only bought 67 billion dollars of weapons, United Arab Emirates, with an indigenous population of a million people, spent 22 billion dollars.

MARGARET BRENNAN: But you could- that U.N. Arms--

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: We could--

MARGARET BRENNAN: --embargo would lift--

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: --but we won't.

MARGARET BRENNAN: You won't.

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: We won't. I mean we--

MARGARET BRENNAN: You don't think the Trump administration, as some have speculated, is trying to dissrail- derail this deal before that window opens for you?

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: Well it- it's- it's trying. It's trying. Well, but that's not an important issue because we- you know, we went through an eight years of war. Nobody sold us weapons. That's why we- we developed our own missiles. Now they're complaining why we have missiles. We have missiles because you didn't give us any other means of defense. We could have bought weapons. We could have bought-bought fighter jets, but nobody gave it to- to us when we were attacked. So we developed our own and thankfully we don't need much of foreign weapons.

MARGARET BRENNAN: The Trump administration, as we mentioned, is ramping up pressure.

This designation of the IRGC as a foreign terrorist organization is going to squeeze Iran's already troubled economy even further. What is the impact going to be if this happens and as the U.S. says May 2nd's the deadline for the rest of the world to stop buying Iran's oil?

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: Well it will show to the Iranian people that the United States is not worthy of being a negotiating partner. That's what it will prove. It depends on whether Europe, as well as other members of the JCPOA, want to leave their destiny in the hands of an administration that does not respect its words. We will survive. We have survived tougher days. It's not something that we would invite. It's not something that we would welcome. We will take our measures in response, but we will survive.

MARGARET BRENNAN: Secretary Pompeo has talked about the squeeze this is going to put on the economy in Iran and that is going to make it essentially tougher and squeeze the Iranian government itself.

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: Is it- is--

MARGARET BRENNAN: Do you see these kind of--

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: Is- is the United--

MARGARET BRENNAN: --protests or social unrest as a threat?

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: Is the United States squeezing the Iranian government or the Iranian people?

MARGARET BRENNAN: What do you say?

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: People. And the Iranian people, when pressured, do not respond with submission. They respond with resistance. And they want us to represent them with dignity, not with succumbing to pressure. That's how Iranian people have survived 7,000 years-

MARGARET BRENNAN: But the secretary--

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: --of ups and downs in history.

MARGARET BRENNAN: The secretary of state has said, look if you just look at the facts on the ground: six hundred and three American service people killed by Iran, he attributes this- and that IEDs have maimed American service people in the battlefields. He looks at that- he looks at what's happening in Syria and Yemen and says, look, we're just recognizing facts. That's his explanation for this designation.

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: Well, he's wrong. He's wrong because they have aligned themselves with the wrong people in our region. And they cannot accept that they're suffering defeat because they simply chose the wrong side.

MARGARET BRENNAN: You're talking about--

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: They have-

MARGARET BRENNAN: --what's happening in Syria.

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: They- everywhere. They have spent far more money than anybody else. Seven trillion dollars, according to President Trump. Their allies, their clients, Saudi Arabia and the UAE, have spent billions upon billions of dollars trying to create unrest, trying to support terrorist organizations, even in areas we are not present, like in North Africa. Look at what they're doing in North Africa. Look at the turmoil in North Africa. We're not even present in North Africa. So you need to look at the trouble where it actually is coming from. It's not coming from Iran. Who provided the ideology for ISIS? Who provided the ideology for al-Qaeda? Who provided the-who-whose ideology they're following? Are they following our ideology? Come on.

MARGARET BRENNAN: No, but there are Iranian forces and militias backed by Iran-

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: Who are fighting terrorists.

MARGARET BRENNAN: --in places like Syria--

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: Who are fighting terrorists.

MARGARET BRENNAN: -- and Iraq and elsewhere.

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: Is the United-isn't the United States- I mean President Trump, in the presidential campaign in his debate with Secretary Clinton said publicly, and if you want I bring you the quote, said Iran is killing ISIS. So, are we killing the wrong side?

MARGARET BRENNAN: Are you seeing opportunities to work with the U.S. diplomatically elsewhere? I mean you're-you're talking about a situation where you don't see much--

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: Yeah--

MARGARET BRENNAN: --shared interests with the U.S.

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: It depends on what the U.S. interest- how the U.S. defines its- its interests--

MARGARET BRENNAN: Afghanistan--

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: If the U.S.--

MARGARET BRENNAN: Where Iran--

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: If the U.S.--

MARGARET BRENNAN: -- has been helpful in the past.

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: Yeah, yeah. We have been helpful everywhere. We have fought terrorism in- in Syria. We have fought terrorism in Iraq, and the U.S. is saying that its objective is to fight Daesh- ISIS in- in Iraq. Yesterday, there was a commemoration in Iraq- a U.S. friend and ally- of 300 Iranians who died in Iraq fighting ISIS. Their families were invited. The president of Iraq sent a message to that gathering. The prime minister of Iraq sent a message to that gathering-all of these people are your friends. So everybody recognizes the role of Iran in bringing stability. I haven't seen them commemorating any martyrs from Saudi Arabia fighting ISIS, or UAE. But what you seem to- I mean your government seems to be exonerating them sort of. Who recognized the Taliban in Afghanistan as the government in 2001? Was it Iran? We were a party to the solution in Afghanistan. We were a part--

MARGARET BRENNAN: And that's why I'm asking, is Iran seeing a possibility to work with the U.S. anywhere? If it's Afghanistan, as Iran has been helpful in the past. Syria? Anywhere? Where you could actually find some kind of shared interest instead of what you're describing, as you've said, is a path towards the risk of conflict.

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: Well, you see, we are operating in our own region. That's why it's called Persian Gulf. Not- not the Gulf of Mexico. We are operating in our own region. We are a force for stability in our region. History shows that. The United States is operating far from its shores, in our region. It has to make the correct recognition. Who's doing the work for stability. If Secretary Pompeo wants to make up these stories, then he can continue doing so, but that wouldn't resolve America's problems. That would lead to President Trump saying we spend seven trillion dollars in this region and brought nothing but misery to ourselves and to the people of the region.

MARGARET BRENNAN: When I spoke with President Trump in February, he said that he was going to keep U.S. troops in Iraq to watch Iran.

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: Well and he--

MARGARET BRENNAN: What did you make of that?

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: --immediately heard from the Iraqis that that is not how they see the presence of U.S. forces.

MARGARET BRENNAN: Did you hear that as a threat?

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: You see, I went to Iraq. I stayed in Iraq for five days. I went to five cities. I went among the people of Iraq, and I was welcomed by them. I went to public places. President Trump flew to Iraq, to a military base and left from the same military base within hours in the dark of night. Our president went to Iraq, stayed there for three days, went to public meetings in three Iraqi cities. Now, you tell me who's welcome in Iraq and who's not.

MARGARET BRENNAN: Did you hear that as a threat from the president?

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: I think the Iraqis heard that as a threat from the president.

MARGARET BRENNAN: The secretary of state when he was testifying before Congress specifically said that there is absolutely no doubt that there are ties between Iran and al-Qaeda. Full stop. It brought up this question of whether the U.S. is going to try to use some kind of authorization for military force to strike Iran on the basis of past support for that kind of terrorism.

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: Well last I remember, 15 of the 21 9/11 terrorists were Saudi citizens. None were Iranian.

MARGARET BRENNAN: You're not concerned that the US is looking--

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: I'm- I'm concerned about--

MARGARET BRENNAN: --for the possibility of how to strike Iran.

FOREIGN MINISTER ZARIF: I'm- I'm concerned about hidden agendas that some people are following. I know that President Trump had ran on a campaign promise of not engaging in any more foolish wars. I know that some other people have different agendas.

MARGARET BRENNAN: Alright. Thank you, sir. Thank you, minister for your time.

PRESS CONTACT:

Tucker Hart

HartT@cbsnews.com

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POLITICOPLAYBOOK

BY ANNA PALMER, JAKE SHERMAN AND DANIEL LIPPMAN

Presented by



Message

From: Anna Palmer Jake Sherman

Daniel Lippman

[politicoplaybook@politico.com]

Sent: 4/7/2019 3:39:37 PM

To: Bowman, Liz

[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]

Subject:POLITICO Playbook: Mulvaney

doesn't have 'much interest' in seeing the Mueller report

DRIVING THE DAY

NEW ... PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP'S WEEK AHEAD --

MONDAY: The president will have lunch with VP Mike Pence. He will also meet with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. **TUESDAY**: The president will have a bilateral meeting with Egypt President El Sisi.

WEDNESDAY: Trump will travel to San Antonio and Houston.

THURSDAY: The president and First Lady Melania Trump will meet with Korean President Moon Jae-in and his wife Kim Jung-sook. He will also meet with WWII veterans.

SUNDAY BEST -- BILL HEMMER spoke with ACTING WHITE HOUSE CHIEF OF STAFF MICK MULVANEY on FOX NEWS' "FOX NEWS SUNDAY: HEMMER: "[The president] also threatened to cut off aid to Central American countries. Is that still a threat?"

MULVANEY: "Absolutely, it's for the same reason. This is his number one priority. Keep in mind, dealing with healthcare is nice, dealing with the economy is nice. The president's first responsibility is to protect the integrity and safety of our nation, and we really do believe and I think again, most folks are starting to agree with us now, that the situation on the border is a national security crisis."

- -- ON TRUMP'S TAXES: HEMMER: "Do you believe Democrats will ever see the President's tax returns?" MULVANEY: "Oh no, never, nor should they. Keep in mind that that's an issue that was already litigated during the election. Voters knew the president could have given his tax returns, they knew that he didn't, and they elected him anyway, which of course is what drive the Democrats crazy."
- -- ON THE MUELLER REPORT: HEMMER: "Do you want to see it?" MULVANEY: "I don't really have much interest in seeing it. I wasn't involved in it. I was over at OMB during that process. I don't really have much interest."

JAKE TAPPER spoke with HOUSE INTEL CHAIRMAN ADAM SCHIFF (D-CALIF.) on CNN'S "STATE OF THE UNION" about whether parts of the Mueller report should be redacted: SCHIFF: "Well, look, if there are classified portions of the report, if there's the classified annex, for example, that may need to be close-hold, depending on whether that reveals sources and methods. There may even be some parts of that, though, that can be declassified in the public interest."

- -- SCHIFF on collusion: "Yes, there's ample evidence of collusion in plain sight. But that is not the same thing as proof of a criminal conspiracy beyond a reasonable doubt, and that I would defer to Bob Mueller's judgment. And I do. But I think what we're talking about here is the difference between conduct that rises to the level of criminality and conduct that is deeply unethical, unpatriotic and corrupt that may not be criminal."
- -- TAPPER also spoke with National Economic Director LARRY KUDLOW about Trump's possible Federal Reserve picks of Stephen Moore and Herman Cain. KUDLOW: "I mean, first of all, they're both very smart people. Second of all, let's take Mr. Herman Cain. Besides being a very successful entrepreneur, businessman, he was a board member of the Kansas City Federal Reserve, and actually was the chairman of the board of the Kansas City Federal Reserve. His time there spans, I think, about a decade.

"He is intimately acquainted with Federal Reserve operations and policy issues. So I think these criticisms are very unfair."

SCOOP: ALEX ISENSTADT in Las Vegas: "Pro-Trump Republicans plan eight-figure play for the Jewish vote in 2020": "Republicans are planning a multimillion-dollar offensive aimed at fracturing the Democratic Party's decades-long stranglehold on the Jewish vote.

"Spearheading the push is the Republican Jewish Coalition, which receives substantial funding from casino mogul and GOP megadonor Sheldon Adelson. On Friday morning, the group's board members — many of them prominent Republican Party donors — gathered in a conference room at Adelson's Venetian resort, where they were briefed on plans for a \$10 million-plus blitz geared toward attracting Jewish support for President Donald Trump. The investment, people familiar with the early discussions say, will far surpass what the group has spent in past presidential elections.

"With Democrats embroiled in a wrenching internal debate over anti-Semitism and support for Israel, Republicans are moving to capitalize with an aggressive campaign painting Trump — who himself has at times faced accusations of stoking anti-Semitism — as a fierce and unapologetic defender of the Jewish state.

"We're at the intersection of a very unique moment in time where we have the most pro-Israel president ever in history in Donald Trump, and we also at the same time have the Democratic Party - because of the pressure of the progressive left - moving away from the traditional support for Israel that has existed going back to 1948,' said Matt Brooks, who has served as RJC executive director for nearly three decades." <u>POLITICO</u>

Good Sunday morning. THE VIRGINIA CAVALIERS will face the TEXAS TECH RED RAIDERS for the NCAA men's basketball championship Monday at 9:20 p.m. EDT in Minneapolis. It will be broadcast on CBS. Virginia is an early one-point favorite in Vegas.

MORE SUNDAY BEST ... CHUCK TODD spoke with SOUTH BEND MAYOR PETE BUTTIGIEG on NBC NEWS' "MEET THE PRESS"

about what makes him qualified to be president: **BUTTIGEIG:** "I would stack up my experience against anybody. I know it's not as traditional I haven't been marinating in Washington here for a very long time and I know I'm not part of that establishment but I would argue that being the mayor of a city of any size means that you have to deal with the kinds of issues that really hit Americans."

- -- BUTTIGIEG on the issues: GUN CONTROL: "We've already decided within the framework of the Second Amendment that we're going to draw a line somewhere, right? 'Shall not be infringed' clearly doesn't mean that you're entitled to a nuclear weapon. I mean somewhere in between a slingshot and a nuclear weapon we're going to draw a line about what makes sense."
- ... **ON ABORTION:** "This is a moral question that's not going to be settled by science and so the best way for it to be settled in practice is by the person that actually faces the choice and when a woman is facing this decision in her life, I think the in terms of somebody besides her who can most be useful in that, the answer to that would be a doctor. Not a male government official imposing his interpretation of his religion."
- -- GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS spoke with JAY SEKULOW on ABC'S "THIS WEEK" -- via Matthew Choi: "President Donald Trump's personal lawyer, Jay Sekulow, on Sunday dismissed House Democrats' request for the president's tax returns, charging the probe sets a precedent for using the IRS for political purposes. 'What stops another party from doing the same thing?' Sekulow said. ...
- "Sekulow dismissed any notion the request had any policy value and characterized it as weaponizing the president's personal finances. He also pointed out that several House Democrats have not made their taxes public and that it's illegal for Congress to disclose others' tax returns, including public officials, without their consent. 'The president has not asked for Nancy Pelosi's tax returns,' Sekulow said, referring the Democratic House speaker from California." <u>POLITICO</u>

A message from American Bankers Association

How do America's Banks grow jobs and fuel the economy? America's Banks employ 2.1 million people and finance \$10.2 trillion in consumer, small business, farm and other loans. <u>Click here</u> to see how banks drive growth in your state.

BUCKLE UP ... THE NEXT TWO YEARS ... AP'S LISA MASCARO: "Senate GOP game plan means more Trump nominees, fewer bills": "Mitch McConnell says the Senate will be in the 'personnel business' this year. But the majority leader's focus on confirming President Donald Trump's nominees is coming at the expense of any big legislative priorities.

"Nearly 100 days into the new Congress, the drive to confirm is adding more conservatives to the courts and putting more Trump appointees in government offices. But Trump's promises to replace the Affordable Care Act, invest in infrastructure or cut middle class taxes have been essentially shelved.

"The result is that the GOP-controlled Senate is on a very different path heading into the 2020 election than is the House, where the Democratic majority is churning out a long list of bills on ethics, gun violence and other topics that, while unlikely to become law, show voters their priorities." AP

PELOSI INTERVIEW ... WAPO'S PAUL KANE: "Pelosi outlines a path to victory for House Democrats in 2020 — and guarantees it": "Barely three months into her second turn in charge, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has already mapped out a plan to overwhelm Republicans in the 2020 elections.

"I'm going to have our races won by this November,' the California Democrat said. Yes, the House speaker predicted that she will have locked down the majority a full year ahead of schedule, leaving the political battlefield to what she considers an intense presidential race all the way up to November 2020.

"It's a remarkably bold guarantee for Pelosi, who will celebrate this new majority's 100-day mark at a Democratic retreat next week outside Leesburg. Her caucus has had its share of growing pains in the first quarter of the year, with younger, more-liberal Democrats trying to push Pelosi's leadership team as far to the left as possible." WaPo

-- **PELOSI** made similar remarks about being focused on 2020 to us earlier this week at a Playbook Interview. Look for this to be a new rallying cry for the speaker to raise money and to energize the base.

MEANWHILE ... THE WAITING GAME CONTINUES -- "Congress Waits as Barr Blacks Out Parts of Mueller Report," by NYT's Charlie Savage

WHAT'S ON PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP'S MIND --

@realDonaldTrump at 9:50 a.m.: "Looks like Bob Mueller's team of 13 Trump Haters & Angry Democrats are illegally leaking information to the press while the Fake News Media make up their own stories with or without sources - sources no longer matter to our corrupt & dishonest Mainstream Media, they are a Joke!"

FROM 30,000 FEET -- "Threats From Trump Often Fall Short," by NYT's Michael Tackett and Linda Qiu: "For President Trump, a threat is frequently his first impulse. He is forceful, declarative and speaks with unvarnished conviction. He has made the theme of promises made, promises kept the anthem of his re-election effort. But his threats often remain just that. The most recent example was when Mr. Trump backed down from a vow to close the border with Mexico, instead saying he would give one of the United States' most essential trading partners a year to deal with the migrant crisis. ...

"Here is a look at some of Mr. Trump's more high-profile threats[:] Closing the border with Mexico ... A bullhorn to Russia ... Telling General Motors to reopen a plant, or else (he would cut subsidies) ... Threats against the media ... Trying to overturn a constitutional right ... California on his mind ... A veiled warning to James B. Comey." NYT

HMM ... WAPO'S HEATHER LONG: "Trump administration nearly doubles H-2B guest visa program, which brings many Mexican workers": "The Homeland Security and Labor departments plan to grant an additional 30,000 H-2B visas this summer on top of the 33,000 they had already planned to give out, the agencies confirmed.

"The H-2B visa allows foreign workers to come to the United States legally and work for several months at companies such as landscapers, amusement parks or hotels. About 80 percent of these visas went to people from Mexico and Central America last year, government data shows." WaPo

-- "U.S. says reuniting separated families laborious process," by AP's Elliot Spagat in San Diego: "The Trump administration wants up to two years to find potentially thousands of children who were separated from their families at the border before a judge halted the practice last year, a task that it says is more laborious than previous efforts because the children are no longer in government custody.

"The Justice Department said in a court filing late Friday that it will take at least a year to review about 47,000 cases of unaccompanied children taken into government custody between July 1, 2017 and June 25, 2018 — the day before U.S. District Judge Dana Sabraw halted the general practice of splitting families. The administration would begin by sifting through names for traits most likely to signal separation — for example, children under 5." AP

ABOUT LAST NIGHT ... "Trump to Jewish Republicans:

Democrats pushing 'extreme, anti-Semitic agenda," by Gabby Orr in Washington and Alex Isenstadt in Las Vegas: "Speaking before a crowd of influential GOP donors and Jewish Republicans, President Donald Trump on Saturday accused Democrats of mistreating Israel and allowing the 'scourge of anti-Semitism to take root' in their party. 'Democrats are advancing by far the most extreme, anti-Semitic agenda in history,' Trump said.

"'If implemented... the Democrats' radical agenda could very well leave Israel out there all by yourselves.' In remarks at an annual conference hosted by the Republican Jewish Coalition, which endorsed Trump in 2016 and has spoken glowingly of his administration during his first two years in office, the president riled up the crowd by tearing down his political opponents one-by-one." POLITICO

TOP TWEETS -- WAPO'S FELICIA SONOMEZ (@feliciasonmez): "'Special thanks to Representative Omar of Minnesota. Oh, I forgot. She doesn't like Israel. I forgot. I'm so sorry.' Trump to RJC crowd, singling out Omar one day after a man was arrested for threatening to kill her and calling her a 'terrorist.'"

... AP'S ZEKE MILLER (@ZekeJMiller): "Trump was greeted at the steps of Air Force One by Steve Wynn, former RNC finance chair who resigned after sexual harassment allegations."

2020 WATCH -- WAPO'S CHELSEA JANE in West Hollywood: "'It got real gay real quick': Pete Buttigieg's rise electrifies the gay community, but he could face a rocky road": "Pete Buttigieg was sitting in the back of a black SUV with a couple of staffers, sipping a still-steeping cup of tea to ease the fatigue from his suddenly frenetic schedule, when he looked out the window and interrupted himself.

"'Man,' said Buttigieg, taking in the rainbow-hued signs and colorfully dressed passersby that signaled he had entered West Hollywood, Los Angeles's de facto gay neighborhood. 'It got real gay real quick out there.'

"Few Democratic presidential candidates could assess their surroundings so bluntly without seeming painfully out of line. But Buttigieg is not like any other Democratic presidential candidate — in part, if not exclusively, because he is gay." WaPo

-- ELENA SCHNEIDER and MAGGIE SEVERNS: "Gillibrand leans on female donor groups she built over last decade": "In her first years in the Senate, Kirsten Gillibrand traveled to major cities across the country to start female-centric donor circles to elevate women in politics, harkening back to her own political awakening as a donor in a male-dominated space.

"Now, the New York Democrat is returning to those groups — some of which now contribute over \$1 million to candidates per election — and asking them to help make her the first female president of the United States." POLITICO

A message from American Bankers Association:



America's Banks employ 2.1 million people and fuel the economy with \$10.2 trillion in lending. <u>See how</u> banks drive growth in your state.

-- JAMES ARKIN: "Former Auburn football coach running for Alabama Senate seat": "Former Auburn University head football coach Tommy Tuberville is running for Senate in Alabama as a Republican, he announced Saturday. ... Tuberville is joining the race to run against Democratic Sen. Doug Jones, who won a special election in 2017 and is running for a full term next year.

"Republican Rep. Bradley Byrne is already in the race, and several other Republicans are considering jumping into the primary to challenge Jones, who is viewed as the most vulnerable Democrat on the ballot next year.

"Sean Spicer, President Donald Trump's former White House communications director, is expected to assist Tuberville with the campaign, according to sources familiar with the budding operation, though a formal role hasn't been determined yet." <u>POLITICO</u>

TRUMP'S SUNDAY -- There is nothing on the president's public schedule today.

SNL LAST NIGHT - "Joe Biden Cold Open": "Joe Biden (Jason Sudeikis) meets with a consultant (Kate McKinnon) and undecided women voters (Aidy Bryant, Leslie Jones) to evaluate if his behavior crosses the line for a presidential run in 2020." *7-min. video*

PLAYBOOK READS

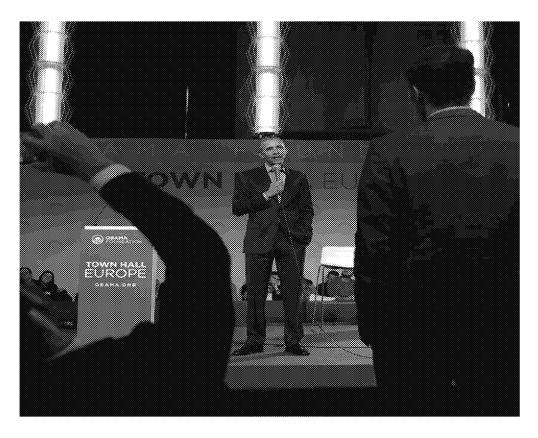


PHOTO DU JOUR: Former President Barack Obama listens to a participant's question while speaking to young leaders from across Europe in a town hall-style session on Saturday in Berlin, Germany. | Sean Gallup/Getty Images

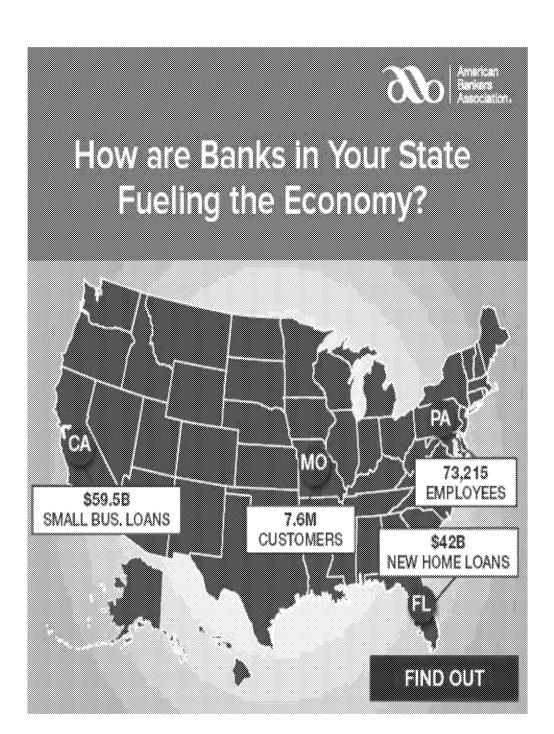
MEANWHILE IN ISRAEL ... "Netanyahu vows to annex West Bank settlements if re-elected," by AP's Karin Laub in Jerusalem: "Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pledged Saturday to annex Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank if re-elected, a dramatic

policy shift apparently aimed at rallying his nationalist base in the final stretch of the tight race.

"Netanyahu has promoted Jewish settlement expansion in his four terms as prime minister, but until now refrained from presenting a detailed vision for the West Bank, seen by the Palestinians as the heartland of a future state. An Israeli annexation of large parts of the West Bank is bound to snuff out any last flicker of hope for an Israeli-Palestinian deal on the terms of a Palestinian state on lands Israel captured in 1967." AP

-- THIS IS A BIG DEAL: This is essentially throwing the two-state solution in the dustbin.

A message from American Bankers Association:



Use this <u>interactive map</u> to see how banks drive the economy in your state.

WHAT WALL STREET IS READING -- "How regulators, Republicans and big banks fought for a big increase in lucrative but risky corporate loans," by WaPo's Damian Paletta: "Actions by federal regulators and Republicans in Congress over the past two years have paved the way for banks and other financial companies to issue more than \$1 trillion in risky corporate loans, sparking fears that Washington and Wall Street are repeating the mistakes made before the financial crisis. The moves undercut policies put in place by banking regulators six years ago that aimed to prevent high-risk lending from once again damaging the economy.

"Now, regulators and even White House officials are struggling to comprehend the scope and potential dangers of the massive pool of credits, known as leveraged loans, they helped create. Goldman Sachs, Wells Fargo, JP Morgan Chase, Bank of America and other financial companies have originated these loans to hundreds of cash-strapped companies, many of which could be unable to repay if the economy slows or interest rates rise." WaPo

BEYOND THE BELTWAY -- "Survivors of Hurricane Michael in the Florida Panhandle fear they have been forgotten," by WaPo's Patricia Sullivan and Joel Achenbach in Mexico Beach, Fla.: "The stretch of the Florida Panhandle east of Panama City is known as the Forgotten Coast, because it's so rural and undeveloped — a remnant of a wild, pre-Disney, pre-air-conditioned Florida. ... Government agencies have cleared the roads and utilities have restored power, water and communications, but thousands of people are still desperate for permanent housing, competing not only with one another for the scarce supply of rental units, but with construction workers who have come into the area.

"Many residents are living in damaged homes or trailers unfit for human habitation. Some live in tents. Homeowners are frustrated by stingy insurance companies and bewildering government paperwork, and they're wary of shady contractors. ... Residents here wonder if their fellow Americans understand their ongoing struggle. Charitable donations flowing into the area have been modest. The American Red Cross calculated that designated donations for Hurricane Michael victims totaled \$35 million through the end of March." WaPo

VALLEY TALK -- "Scheme to Swap Fake iPhones Adds Up to \$900,000 Loss for Apple, Prosecutors Say," by NYT's Rick Rojas: "The con was simple: Send a fake iPhone to Apple claiming that the device would not turn on and that it was under warranty, and not long after, a genuine replacement arrived in the mail. It was a scheme that

federal prosecutors said two college students in Oregon repeated on such a scale that it amounted to nearly \$900,000 in losses for Apple as they sent in hundreds of counterfeit phones. The two students, identified as Quan Jiang and Yangyang Zhou, would then ship the iPhones overseas where they would be sold for hundreds of dollars, and in return, they would get a cut of the profit." NYT

BONUS GREAT WEEKEND READS, curated by Daniel Lippman, filing from Savannah, Georgia:

- -- "Death By 1,000 Clicks: Where Electronic Health Records Went Wrong," by Fred Schulte and Erika Fry in Fortune/Kaiser Health News: "The U.S. government claimed that turning American medical charts into electronic records would make health care better, safer, and cheaper. Ten years and \$36 billion later, the system is an unholy mess. Inside a digital revolution that took a bad turn." KHN
- -- "Why Beto and Buttigieg Pretend to Be Kennedys," by Peter Canellos in POLITICO Magazine: "Decades after JFK and RFK were killed, the family's political style remains the Democratic Party's only winning path to the White House." <u>POLITICO Magazine</u>
- -- "The Rise and Fall of a New York Shock Jock," by The New Yorker's Nick Paumgarten: "Craig Carton's misadventures in gambling and in the ticket-resale game led the on-air personality to risk everything on a pretty flimsy play." The New Yorker
- -- "What Was the Washington Post Afraid Of?" by New York Magazine's Irin Carmon per Longreads.com's description: "Irin Carmon and Amy Brittain were on the verge of publishing an investigation looking into sexual misconduct allegations against a powerful executive at CBS. But the Washington Post decided not to run the story. Carmon looks back at how an important story was killed." <a href="https://www.nymag.ny
- "One gun's path to destruction," by CNN's Scott Glover: "They were a farming family, a young hothead, and an aspiring engineer with

nothing in common - except a weapon that reached the San Francisco streets through unlicensed gun dealing." <u>CNN</u>

- -- "Editing in an age of outrage" FT per ALDaily.com's description: "Ian Buruma on his tenure at the New York Review: 'Editors should be able to take risks. Denunciation, instead of debate, will result in a kind of fearful conformity." FT
- -- "They Had It Coming," by Caitlin Flanagan in The Atlantic: "The parents indicted in the college-admissions scandal were responding to a changing America, with rage at being robbed of what they believed was rightfully theirs." The Atlantic (h/t Longform.org)
- -- "The Hidden Air Pollution in Our Homes," by Nicola Twilley in The New Yorker: "Outdoor air has been regulated for decades, but emissions from daily domestic activities may be more dangerous than anyone imagined." The New Yorker
- -- "Trump's Mental Health: Is Pathological Narcissism the Key to Trump's Behavior?" by Alex Morris in Rolling Stone in April 2017: "Diagnosing the president was off-limits to experts until a textbook case entered the White House." Rolling Stone
- -- "Capitalist Takeover of Higher Education," by Kevin Carey in HuffPost: "Just a few years ago, universities had a chance to make a quality education affordable for everyone. Here's the little-known and absolutely infuriating history of what they did instead." <u>HuffPost</u> (h/t Longform.org)
- -- "Turning Bystanders Into First Responders," by Paige Williams in The New Yorker: "In the mass-shooting era, civilians must help one another in a crisis—and keep victims from bleeding to death." <u>The New Yorker</u>
- -- "Philip Roth, Landlord," by Terena Elizabeth Bell in Yale Review per Longreads.com's description: "When you rent one of the Pulitzer winning author's New York apartments, you can listen to his life through the wall. Just don't ask him about his work." Yale Review

BEN WHITE AND MORNING MONEY HEAD TO #MIGLOBAL:

POLITICO is partnering with the Milken Institute for this year's global conference in Beverly Hills, Calif., from April 28 to May 1. Ben White will again write a special "Morning Money?? newsletter for the conference, detailing all the happenings, highlights, major conversations, evening festivities and buzzy VIP gatherings. Sign up today to receive exclusive coverage and everything you need to know direct from #MIGlobal in this special-edition, pop-up newsletter.



PLAYBOOKERS

SPOTTED: Merrick Garland walking on Saturday in Bethesda toward Kenwood on a peak cherry blossom day ... Dikembe Mutombo on Saturday at a reception for the new president of the DRC, Felix Tshisekedi, at the Willard InterContinental

WEEKEND WEDDINGS -- "Samantha Marpe, Kristofer Sandor" -

N.Y. Times: "The bride, 34, is a recruiter with Henkel Search Partners, a company in New York that specializes in recruiting investment professionals for private equity firms. ... The groom, 40, was until December 2018, the general manager of Citi Bike, a bike share company based in New York. He previously served nine years on active duty in the Navy as a nuclear submarine officer, having achieved the rank of lieutenant, and was last stationed at the Office of the Secretary of Defense in Washington. He also served as a White House social aide in the Bush and Obama administrations." *With a pic. NYT*

-- Kim Starfield, senior protocol officer at the Department of State, on Saturday married Alex Kisselburg, deputy director for the Middle East, Africa and South Asia at DHS, at the Carnegie Institution for Science in D.C. "The couple began dating in November 2012 when they were both working for the Department of Homeland Security." <u>Pic</u> ...

Another pic

BIRTHDAYS: Daniel Lippman is 29 ... Josh Holmes, president and founding partner of Cavalry, is 4-o. He celebrated with a party with close friends, including from Minnesota who flew in for the weekend (hat tip: wife Blair) ... Bill McQuillen, EVP and Washington media lead at BCW (h/t Ben Chang) ... Hilary Perry (h/ts Dick Keil) ... Michael Meehan, CEO of Squared Communications and founding partner of the Potomac West Group ... Bob Eitel ... former California Gov. Jerry Brown is 81 ... former Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels, now president of Purdue University, is 7-o ... POLITICO's Darren Samuelsohn, Maggie Severns, Jon Otto, and Fernando Rodas ... Hodding Carter III is 84 ... Paige Lavender, HuffPost's senior editor of breaking news ... Cliff Hackel ... Bonnie Levin (h/ts Jon Haber) ... Todd Schulte, president of FWD.us ... Chimene Okere ... Tony Zeng ... Eric Walker ... Angus Viebranz ... Alyssa Hackbarth ...

... Kaitlan Collins, CNN White House reporter ... Annalise Myre ... CNN's Noah Gray (h/t Jeff Solnet) ... Michael Ciamarra ... Tom Lehner ... Alan Hoffman ... Andrew Holt ... Sara Croom ... Daniel Ellsberg is 88 ... Oren Jacobson is 37 ... Richard Reyes-Gavilan ... Ming Dang ... Cara Bowers ... Deborah Scranton (h/t Jane Brown) ... WJLA alum Dan Patrick ... CACI's Greg Hellman ... Ali Swee ... Mike Abboud, press secretary at EPA (h/t James Hewitt) ... Aleesa Mann ... Jessica Chasmar ... Eugene Kiely ... former Rep. Robert Brady (D-Pa.) is 74 ... Sam Brill ... Valerie Nelson ... former German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder is 75 ... Harry Philip ... Jimmy Williams ... Denis Gray ... Collin Hansen ... Sam Brill ... Curt Grieve ... Rene Redwood ... Dana Gray ... Fabiola Rodriguez-Ciampoli (h/ts Teresa Vilmain)

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BY ANNA PALMER, JAKE SHERMAN AND DANIEL LIPPMAN

Presented by



Message

From: Anna Palmer Jake Sherman

Daniel Lippman

[politicoplaybook@politico.com]

Sent: 4/7/2019 3:39:36 PM

To: Bowman, Liz

[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]

Subject: POLITICO Playbook: Mulvaney

doesn't have 'much interest' in

seeing the Mueller report

DRIVING THE DAY

NEW ... PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP'S WEEK AHEAD --

MONDAY: The president will have lunch with VP Mike Pence. He will also meet with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. **TUESDAY**: The president will have a bilateral meeting with Egypt President El Sisi.

WEDNESDAY: Trump will travel to San Antonio and Houston.

THURSDAY: The president and First Lady Melania Trump will meet with Korean President Moon Jae-in and his wife Kim Jung-sook. He will also meet with WWII veterans.

SUNDAY BEST -- BILL HEMMER spoke with ACTING WHITE HOUSE CHIEF OF STAFF MICK MULVANEY on FOX NEWS' "FOX **NEWS SUNDAY: HEMMER:** "[The president] also threatened to cut off aid to Central American countries. Is that still a threat?" **MULVANEY:** "Absolutely, it's for the same reason. This is his number one priority. Keep in mind, dealing with healthcare is nice, dealing with the economy is nice. The president's first responsibility is to protect the integrity and safety of our nation, and we really do believe and I think again, most folks are starting to agree with us now, that the situation on the border is a national security crisis."

- -- ON TRUMP'S TAXES: HEMMER: "Do you believe Democrats will ever see the President's tax returns?" MULVANEY: "Oh no, never, nor should they. Keep in mind that that's an issue that was already litigated during the election. Voters knew the president could have given his tax returns, they knew that he didn't, and they elected him anyway, which of course is what drive the Democrats crazy."
- -- ON THE MUELLER REPORT: HEMMER: "Do you want to see it?" MULVANEY: "I don't really have much interest in seeing it. I wasn't involved in it. I was over at OMB during that process. I don't really have much interest."

JAKE TAPPER spoke with HOUSE INTEL CHAIRMAN ADAM SCHIFF (D-CALIF.) on CNN'S "STATE OF THE UNION" about whether parts of the Mueller report should be redacted: SCHIFF: "Well, look, if there are classified portions of the report, if there's the classified annex, for example, that may need to be close-hold, depending on whether that reveals sources and methods. There may even be some parts of that, though, that can be declassified in the public interest."

- -- SCHIFF on collusion: "Yes, there's ample evidence of collusion in plain sight. But that is not the same thing as proof of a criminal conspiracy beyond a reasonable doubt, and that I would defer to Bob Mueller's judgment. And I do. But I think what we're talking about here is the difference between conduct that rises to the level of criminality and conduct that is deeply unethical, unpatriotic and corrupt that may not be criminal."
- -- TAPPER also spoke with National Economic Director LARRY KUDLOW about Trump's possible Federal Reserve picks of Stephen Moore and Herman Cain. KUDLOW: "I mean, first of all, they're both very smart people. Second of all, let's take Mr. Herman Cain. Besides being a very successful entrepreneur, businessman, he was a board member of the Kansas City Federal Reserve, and actually was the chairman of the board of the Kansas City Federal Reserve. His time there spans, I think, about a decade.

"He is intimately acquainted with Federal Reserve operations and policy issues. So I think these criticisms are very unfair."

SCOOP: ALEX ISENSTADT in Las Vegas: "Pro-Trump Republicans plan eight-figure play for the Jewish vote in 2020": "Republicans are planning a multimillion-dollar offensive aimed at fracturing the Democratic Party's decades-long stranglehold on the Jewish vote.

"Spearheading the push is the Republican Jewish Coalition, which receives substantial funding from casino mogul and GOP megadonor Sheldon Adelson. On Friday morning, the group's board members — many of them prominent Republican Party donors — gathered in a conference room at Adelson's Venetian resort, where they were briefed on plans for a \$10 million-plus blitz geared toward attracting Jewish support for President Donald Trump. The investment, people familiar with the early discussions say, will far surpass what the group has spent in past presidential elections.

"With Democrats embroiled in a wrenching internal debate over anti-Semitism and support for Israel, Republicans are moving to capitalize with an aggressive campaign painting Trump — who himself has at times faced accusations of stoking anti-Semitism — as a fierce and unapologetic defender of the Jewish state.

"We're at the intersection of a very unique moment in time where we have the most pro-Israel president ever in history in Donald Trump, and we also at the same time have the Democratic Party - because of the pressure of the progressive left - moving away from the traditional support for Israel that has existed going back to 1948,' said Matt Brooks, who has served as RJC executive director for nearly three decades." <u>POLITICO</u>

Good Sunday morning. THE VIRGINIA CAVALIERS will face the TEXAS TECH RED RAIDERS for the NCAA men's basketball championship Monday at 9:20 p.m. EDT in Minneapolis. It will be broadcast on CBS. Virginia is an early one-point favorite in Vegas.

MORE SUNDAY BEST ... CHUCK TODD spoke with SOUTH BEND MAYOR PETE BUTTIGIEG on NBC NEWS' "MEET THE PRESS"

about what makes him qualified to be president: **BUTTIGEIG:** "I would stack up my experience against anybody. I know it's not as traditional I haven't been marinating in Washington here for a very long time and I know I'm not part of that establishment but I would argue that being the mayor of a city of any size means that you have to deal with the kinds of issues that really hit Americans."

- -- BUTTIGIEG on the issues: GUN CONTROL: "We've already decided within the framework of the Second Amendment that we're going to draw a line somewhere, right? 'Shall not be infringed' clearly doesn't mean that you're entitled to a nuclear weapon. I mean somewhere in between a slingshot and a nuclear weapon we're going to draw a line about what makes sense."
- ... **ON ABORTION:** "This is a moral question that's not going to be settled by science and so the best way for it to be settled in practice is by the person that actually faces the choice and when a woman is facing this decision in her life, I think the in terms of somebody besides her who can most be useful in that, the answer to that would be a doctor. Not a male government official imposing his interpretation of his religion."
- -- GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS spoke with JAY SEKULOW on ABC'S "THIS WEEK" -- via Matthew Choi: "President Donald Trump's personal lawyer, Jay Sekulow, on Sunday dismissed House Democrats' request for the president's tax returns, charging the probe sets a precedent for using the IRS for political purposes. 'What stops another party from doing the same thing?' Sekulow said. ...
- "Sekulow dismissed any notion the request had any policy value and characterized it as weaponizing the president's personal finances. He also pointed out that several House Democrats have not made their taxes public and that it's illegal for Congress to disclose others' tax returns, including public officials, without their consent. 'The president has not asked for Nancy Pelosi's tax returns,' Sekulow said, referring the Democratic House speaker from California." <u>POLITICO</u>

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BUCKLE UP ... THE NEXT TWO YEARS ... AP'S LISA MASCARO: "Senate GOP game plan means more Trump nominees, fewer bills": "Mitch McConnell says the Senate will be in the 'personnel business' this year. But the majority leader's focus on confirming President Donald Trump's nominees is coming at the expense of any big legislative priorities.

"Nearly 100 days into the new Congress, the drive to confirm is adding more conservatives to the courts and putting more Trump appointees in government offices. But Trump's promises to replace the Affordable Care Act, invest in infrastructure or cut middle class taxes have been essentially shelved.

"The result is that the GOP-controlled Senate is on a very different path heading into the 2020 election than is the House, where the Democratic majority is churning out a long list of bills on ethics, gun violence and other topics that, while unlikely to become law, show voters their priorities." AP

PELOSI INTERVIEW ... WAPO'S PAUL KANE: "Pelosi outlines a path to victory for House Democrats in 2020 — and guarantees it": "Barely three months into her second turn in charge, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has already mapped out a plan to overwhelm Republicans in the 2020 elections.

"I'm going to have our races won by this November,' the California Democrat said. Yes, the House speaker predicted that she will have locked down the majority a full year ahead of schedule, leaving the political battlefield to what she considers an intense presidential race all the way up to November 2020.

"It's a remarkably bold guarantee for Pelosi, who will celebrate this new majority's 100-day mark at a Democratic retreat next week outside Leesburg. Her caucus has had its share of growing pains in the first quarter of the year, with younger, more-liberal Democrats trying to push Pelosi's leadership team as far to the left as possible." WaPo

-- **PELOSI** made similar remarks about being focused on 2020 to us earlier this week at a Playbook Interview. Look for this to be a new rallying cry for the speaker to raise money and to energize the base.

MEANWHILE ... THE WAITING GAME CONTINUES -- "Congress Waits as Barr Blacks Out Parts of Mueller Report," by NYT's Charlie Savage

WHAT'S ON PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP'S MIND --

@realDonaldTrump at 9:50 a.m.: "Looks like Bob Mueller's team of 13 Trump Haters & Angry Democrats are illegally leaking information to the press while the Fake News Media make up their own stories with or without sources - sources no longer matter to our corrupt & dishonest Mainstream Media, they are a Joke!"

FROM 30,000 FEET -- "Threats From Trump Often Fall Short," by NYT's Michael Tackett and Linda Qiu: "For President Trump, a threat is frequently his first impulse. He is forceful, declarative and speaks with unvarnished conviction. He has made the theme of promises made, promises kept the anthem of his re-election effort. But his threats often remain just that. The most recent example was when Mr. Trump backed down from a vow to close the border with Mexico, instead saying he would give one of the United States' most essential trading partners a year to deal with the migrant crisis. ...

"Here is a look at some of Mr. Trump's more high-profile threats[:] Closing the border with Mexico ... A bullhorn to Russia ... Telling General Motors to reopen a plant, or else (he would cut subsidies) ... Threats against the media ... Trying to overturn a constitutional right ... California on his mind ... A veiled warning to James B. Comey." NYT

HMM ... WAPO'S HEATHER LONG: "Trump administration nearly doubles H-2B guest visa program, which brings many Mexican workers": "The Homeland Security and Labor departments plan to grant an additional 30,000 H-2B visas this summer on top of the 33,000 they had already planned to give out, the agencies confirmed.

"The H-2B visa allows foreign workers to come to the United States legally and work for several months at companies such as landscapers, amusement parks or hotels. About 80 percent of these visas went to people from Mexico and Central America last year, government data shows." WaPo

-- "U.S. says reuniting separated families laborious process," by AP's Elliot Spagat in San Diego: "The Trump administration wants up to two years to find potentially thousands of children who were separated from their families at the border before a judge halted the practice last year, a task that it says is more laborious than previous efforts because the children are no longer in government custody.

"The Justice Department said in a court filing late Friday that it will take at least a year to review about 47,000 cases of unaccompanied children taken into government custody between July 1, 2017 and June 25, 2018 — the day before U.S. District Judge Dana Sabraw halted the general practice of splitting families. The administration would begin by sifting through names for traits most likely to signal separation — for example, children under 5." AP

ABOUT LAST NIGHT ... "Trump to Jewish Republicans:

Democrats pushing 'extreme, anti-Semitic agenda," by Gabby Orr in Washington and Alex Isenstadt in Las Vegas: "Speaking before a crowd of influential GOP donors and Jewish Republicans, President Donald Trump on Saturday accused Democrats of mistreating Israel and allowing the 'scourge of anti-Semitism to take root' in their party. 'Democrats are advancing by far the most extreme, anti-Semitic agenda in history,' Trump said.

"'If implemented... the Democrats' radical agenda could very well leave Israel out there all by yourselves.' In remarks at an annual conference hosted by the Republican Jewish Coalition, which endorsed Trump in 2016 and has spoken glowingly of his administration during his first two years in office, the president riled up the crowd by tearing down his political opponents one-by-one." POLITICO

TOP TWEETS -- WAPO'S FELICIA SONOMEZ (@feliciasonmez): "'Special thanks to Representative Omar of Minnesota. Oh, I forgot. She doesn't like Israel. I forgot. I'm so sorry.' Trump to RJC crowd, singling out Omar one day after a man was arrested for threatening to kill her and calling her a 'terrorist.'"

... AP'S ZEKE MILLER (@ZekeJMiller): "Trump was greeted at the steps of Air Force One by Steve Wynn, former RNC finance chair who resigned after sexual harassment allegations."

2020 WATCH -- WAPO'S CHELSEA JANE in West Hollywood: "'It got real gay real quick': Pete Buttigieg's rise electrifies the gay community, but he could face a rocky road": "Pete Buttigieg was sitting in the back of a black SUV with a couple of staffers, sipping a still-steeping cup of tea to ease the fatigue from his suddenly frenetic schedule, when he looked out the window and interrupted himself.

"'Man,' said Buttigieg, taking in the rainbow-hued signs and colorfully dressed passersby that signaled he had entered West Hollywood, Los Angeles's de facto gay neighborhood. 'It got real gay real quick out there.'

"Few Democratic presidential candidates could assess their surroundings so bluntly without seeming painfully out of line. But Buttigieg is not like any other Democratic presidential candidate — in part, if not exclusively, because he is gay." WaPo

-- ELENA SCHNEIDER and MAGGIE SEVERNS: "Gillibrand leans on female donor groups she built over last decade": "In her first years in the Senate, Kirsten Gillibrand traveled to major cities across the country to start female-centric donor circles to elevate women in politics, harkening back to her own political awakening as a donor in a male-dominated space.

"Now, the New York Democrat is returning to those groups — some of which now contribute over \$1 million to candidates per election — and asking them to help make her the first female president of the United States." POLITICO

A message from American Bankers Association:



America's Banks employ 2.1 million people and fuel the economy with \$10.2 trillion in lending. <u>See how</u> banks drive growth in your state.

-- JAMES ARKIN: "Former Auburn football coach running for Alabama Senate seat": "Former Auburn University head football coach Tommy Tuberville is running for Senate in Alabama as a Republican, he announced Saturday. ... Tuberville is joining the race to run against Democratic Sen. Doug Jones, who won a special election in 2017 and is running for a full term next year.

"Republican Rep. Bradley Byrne is already in the race, and several other Republicans are considering jumping into the primary to challenge Jones, who is viewed as the most vulnerable Democrat on the ballot next year.

"Sean Spicer, President Donald Trump's former White House communications director, is expected to assist Tuberville with the campaign, according to sources familiar with the budding operation, though a formal role hasn't been determined yet." <u>POLITICO</u>

TRUMP'S SUNDAY -- There is nothing on the president's public schedule today.

SNL LAST NIGHT - "Joe Biden Cold Open": "Joe Biden (Jason Sudeikis) meets with a consultant (Kate McKinnon) and undecided women voters (Aidy Bryant, Leslie Jones) to evaluate if his behavior crosses the line for a presidential run in 2020." *7-min. video*

PLAYBOOK READS



PHOTO DU JOUR: Former President Barack Obama listens to a participant's question while speaking to young leaders from across Europe in a town hall-style session on Saturday in Berlin, Germany. | Sean Gallup/Getty Images

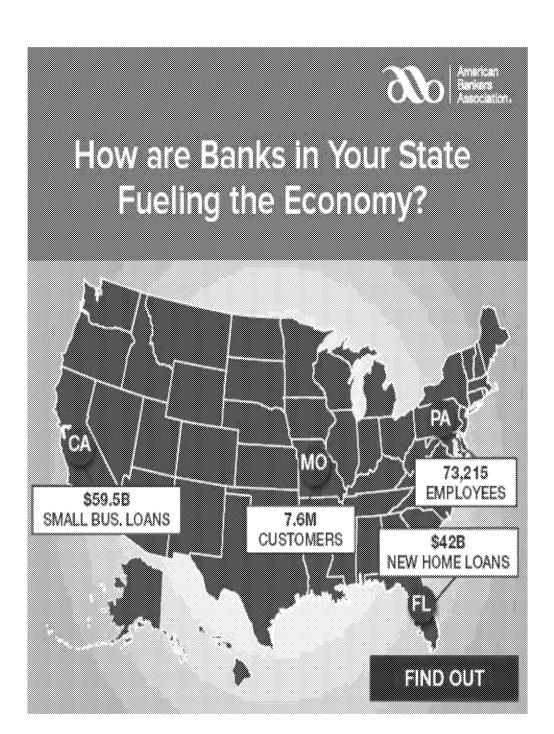
MEANWHILE IN ISRAEL ... "Netanyahu vows to annex West Bank settlements if re-elected," by AP's Karin Laub in Jerusalem: "Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pledged Saturday to annex Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank if re-elected, a dramatic

policy shift apparently aimed at rallying his nationalist base in the final stretch of the tight race.

"Netanyahu has promoted Jewish settlement expansion in his four terms as prime minister, but until now refrained from presenting a detailed vision for the West Bank, seen by the Palestinians as the heartland of a future state. An Israeli annexation of large parts of the West Bank is bound to snuff out any last flicker of hope for an Israeli-Palestinian deal on the terms of a Palestinian state on lands Israel captured in 1967." AP

-- THIS IS A BIG DEAL: This is essentially throwing the two-state solution in the dustbin.

A message from American Bankers Association:



Use this <u>interactive map</u> to see how banks drive the economy in your state.

WHAT WALL STREET IS READING -- "How regulators, Republicans and big banks fought for a big increase in lucrative but risky corporate loans," by WaPo's Damian Paletta: "Actions by federal regulators and Republicans in Congress over the past two years have paved the way for banks and other financial companies to issue more than \$1 trillion in risky corporate loans, sparking fears that Washington and Wall Street are repeating the mistakes made before the financial crisis. The moves undercut policies put in place by banking regulators six years ago that aimed to prevent high-risk lending from once again damaging the economy.

"Now, regulators and even White House officials are struggling to comprehend the scope and potential dangers of the massive pool of credits, known as leveraged loans, they helped create. Goldman Sachs, Wells Fargo, JP Morgan Chase, Bank of America and other financial companies have originated these loans to hundreds of cash-strapped companies, many of which could be unable to repay if the economy slows or interest rates rise." WaPo

BEYOND THE BELTWAY -- "Survivors of Hurricane Michael in the Florida Panhandle fear they have been forgotten," by WaPo's Patricia Sullivan and Joel Achenbach in Mexico Beach, Fla.: "The stretch of the Florida Panhandle east of Panama City is known as the Forgotten Coast, because it's so rural and undeveloped — a remnant of a wild, pre-Disney, pre-air-conditioned Florida. ... Government agencies have cleared the roads and utilities have restored power, water and communications, but thousands of people are still desperate for permanent housing, competing not only with one another for the scarce supply of rental units, but with construction workers who have come into the area.

"Many residents are living in damaged homes or trailers unfit for human habitation. Some live in tents. Homeowners are frustrated by stingy insurance companies and bewildering government paperwork, and they're wary of shady contractors. ... Residents here wonder if their fellow Americans understand their ongoing struggle. Charitable donations flowing into the area have been modest. The American Red Cross calculated that designated donations for Hurricane Michael victims totaled \$35 million through the end of March." WaPo

VALLEY TALK -- "Scheme to Swap Fake iPhones Adds Up to \$900,000 Loss for Apple, Prosecutors Say," by NYT's Rick Rojas: "The con was simple: Send a fake iPhone to Apple claiming that the device would not turn on and that it was under warranty, and not long after, a genuine replacement arrived in the mail. It was a scheme that

federal prosecutors said two college students in Oregon repeated on such a scale that it amounted to nearly \$900,000 in losses for Apple as they sent in hundreds of counterfeit phones. The two students, identified as Quan Jiang and Yangyang Zhou, would then ship the iPhones overseas where they would be sold for hundreds of dollars, and in return, they would get a cut of the profit." NYT

BONUS GREAT WEEKEND READS, curated by Daniel Lippman, filing from Savannah, Georgia:

- -- "Death By 1,000 Clicks: Where Electronic Health Records Went Wrong," by Fred Schulte and Erika Fry in Fortune/Kaiser Health News: "The U.S. government claimed that turning American medical charts into electronic records would make health care better, safer, and cheaper. Ten years and \$36 billion later, the system is an unholy mess. Inside a digital revolution that took a bad turn." KHN
- -- "Why Beto and Buttigieg Pretend to Be Kennedys," by Peter Canellos in POLITICO Magazine: "Decades after JFK and RFK were killed, the family's political style remains the Democratic Party's only winning path to the White House." <u>POLITICO Magazine</u>
- -- "The Rise and Fall of a New York Shock Jock," by The New Yorker's Nick Paumgarten: "Craig Carton's misadventures in gambling and in the ticket-resale game led the on-air personality to risk everything on a pretty flimsy play." The New Yorker
- -- "What Was the Washington Post Afraid Of?" by New York Magazine's Irin Carmon per Longreads.com's description: "Irin Carmon and Amy Brittain were on the verge of publishing an investigation looking into sexual misconduct allegations against a powerful executive at CBS. But the Washington Post decided not to run the story. Carmon looks back at how an important story was killed." <a href="https://www.nymag.ny
- "One gun's path to destruction," by CNN's Scott Glover: "They were a farming family, a young hothead, and an aspiring engineer with

nothing in common - except a weapon that reached the San Francisco streets through unlicensed gun dealing." <u>CNN</u>

- -- "Editing in an age of outrage" FT per ALDaily.com's description: "Ian Buruma on his tenure at the New York Review: 'Editors should be able to take risks. Denunciation, instead of debate, will result in a kind of fearful conformity." FT
- -- "They Had It Coming," by Caitlin Flanagan in The Atlantic: "The parents indicted in the college-admissions scandal were responding to a changing America, with rage at being robbed of what they believed was rightfully theirs." The Atlantic (h/t Longform.org)
- -- "The Hidden Air Pollution in Our Homes," by Nicola Twilley in The New Yorker: "Outdoor air has been regulated for decades, but emissions from daily domestic activities may be more dangerous than anyone imagined." The New Yorker
- -- "Trump's Mental Health: Is Pathological Narcissism the Key to Trump's Behavior?" by Alex Morris in Rolling Stone in April 2017: "Diagnosing the president was off-limits to experts until a textbook case entered the White House." Rolling Stone
- -- "Capitalist Takeover of Higher Education," by Kevin Carey in HuffPost: "Just a few years ago, universities had a chance to make a quality education affordable for everyone. Here's the little-known and absolutely infuriating history of what they did instead." <u>HuffPost</u> (h/t Longform.org)
- -- "Turning Bystanders Into First Responders," by Paige Williams in The New Yorker: "In the mass-shooting era, civilians must help one another in a crisis—and keep victims from bleeding to death." <u>The New Yorker</u>
- -- "Philip Roth, Landlord," by Terena Elizabeth Bell in Yale Review per Longreads.com's description: "When you rent one of the Pulitzer winning author's New York apartments, you can listen to his life through the wall. Just don't ask him about his work." Yale Review

BEN WHITE AND MORNING MONEY HEAD TO #MIGLOBAL:

POLITICO is partnering with the Milken Institute for this year's global conference in Beverly Hills, Calif., from April 28 to May 1. Ben White will again write a special "Morning Money?? newsletter for the conference, detailing all the happenings, highlights, major conversations, evening festivities and buzzy VIP gatherings. Sign up today to receive exclusive coverage and everything you need to know direct from #MIGlobal in this special-edition, pop-up newsletter.



PLAYBOOKERS

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N.Y. Times: "The bride, 34, is a recruiter with Henkel Search Partners, a company in New York that specializes in recruiting investment professionals for private equity firms. ... The groom, 40, was until December 2018, the general manager of Citi Bike, a bike share company based in New York. He previously served nine years on active duty in the Navy as a nuclear submarine officer, having achieved the rank of lieutenant, and was last stationed at the Office of the Secretary of Defense in Washington. He also served as a White House social aide in the Bush and Obama administrations." *With a pic. NYT*

-- Kim Starfield, senior protocol officer at the Department of State, on Saturday married Alex Kisselburg, deputy director for the Middle East, Africa and South Asia at DHS, at the Carnegie Institution for Science in D.C. "The couple began dating in November 2012 when they were both working for the Department of Homeland Security." <u>Pic</u> ...

Another pic

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latest allegations

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04/02/2019 08:10 AM EDT

By MELANIE ZANONA (mzanona@politico.com; @MZanona)

With an assist from Sarah Ferris

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04/02/2019 08:10 AM EDT

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Mar 21, 2019 View in browser

BY ANNA PALMER, JAKE SHERMAN AND DANIEL LIPPMAN

Presented by

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DRIVING THE DAY

SCOOP ... TRACKING TRADE, THE PRESIDENT'S TOP PRIORITY ... THE WHITE HOUSE has invited House Republicans on the USMCA -- new NAFTA -- whip team to meet with PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP next week. The invitations went out Wednesday to a few offices on Capitol Hill. The meeting will be Tuesday at 3:15 p.m., and it is restricted to members of Congress.

TRUMP'S personal involvement here is a new dynamic, and it's notable. Some people in the White House pushed back on us last week when we asked when the president would get involved. He's now getting involved, speaking to a small group of Republican members about his top legislative priority.

SPOTTED: Clarence Thomas leaving lunch at the Capital Grille. He was greeted by a TMZ reporter, who yelled "Justice! Who do you like in March Madness?" He laughed and said, "I like *you*."

ELIANA JOHNSON and **DANIEL LIPPMAN**: "Aides struggle to see strategy in Trump's Conway, **McCain fights"**: "As the lurid disputes dominated cable news for several more hours, it was unclear whether Trump had any strategy in mind. Some people close to Trump speculated that he might be consciously trying to remake the news environment — creating a bizarre spectacle to displace criticism of his tepid response to the massacre of dozens of Muslims in New Zealand, the timing of the administration's decision to ground Boeing's 737 Max jets, and frenzied anticipation around the imminent release of special counsel Robert Mueller's final report.

"But the saga has left even White House aides accustomed to a president who bucks convention feeling uncomfortable. While the controversies may have pushed aside some bad news, they also trampled on Trump's Wednesday visit to an army tank manufacturing plant in swing-state Ohio." <u>POLITICO</u>

-- NYT, A1: MAGGIE HABERMAN, ANNIE KARNI and MICHAEL TACKETT: "Months After John McCain's Death, Trump Keeps Feud With Him Alive" ... Print headline: "McCain Death Hasn't Silenced A Trump Feud"

Seife v. EPA (1:19-cv-05190)

7.31.2020

ED_003047_00005434-00001

- -- ASIDE FROM THE PLAINLY OBVIOUS observations about the McCain-Trump feud, TRUMP seems to be a bit confused on the substance. McCain voted against the skinny repeal, which wouldn't have repealed Obamacare immediately. It was aimed at getting the two sides -- the House and Senate -- into a negotiation. Yes, McCain stopped that. But it's completely plausible that the process would've gone sideways if McCain had voted yes. There were other efforts to repeal Obamacare after that that also blew up. But the president seems to have settled on McCain as a punching bag.
- -- HOW MCCAIN ALLIES ARE RESPONDING ... THE MCCAIN INSTITUTE has sent out a fact sheet about the late Arizona Republican's life. *The fact sheet*
- -- SEN. LINDSEY GRAHAM (R-S.C.) on McCain ... He said Trump bashing McCain hurts Trump more than it hurts the legacy of McCain: "My job is to represent the people of South Carolina. They want me to work with the president where I can. I've got to know the president. We have a good working relationship. I like him. I don't like when he says things about my friend John McCain. And the best thing that can happen, I think, for all of us is to move forward and focus on the challenges like North Korea, Venezuela, our growing economy, fixing a broken immigration system and on and on and on." 1:20 video
- -- CNN'S MANU RAJU (@mkraju): "GOP senators up in 2020 have been mostly mum about Trump's attacks on McCain; today Martha McSally -- who is sitting in McCain's seat -- praised McCain's service and legacy but didn't call out Trump by name."

Good Thursday morning.

SECRETARY OF STATE MIKE POMPEO, in Jerusalem standing next to Benjamin Netanyahu, said: "Sadly we in the United States, we have seen anti-Semitic language uttered even in the great halls of our own Capitol. This should not be." *The video*

- -- KEEP YOUR EYES AND EARS OPEN NEXT WEEK ... NYT'S EDWARD WONG in Jerusalem: "Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pressed the United States to recognize Israeli governance of most of the Golan Heights during a visit by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Wednesday. His efforts underscored the growing possibility that the Trump administration may change the American stance on the territory. ...
- "Mr. Netanyahu could press the issue of the Golan Heights with Mr. Trump when he meets with him on Monday and Tuesday. Any big gesture by Mr. Trump could help Mr. Netanyahu in his bid for a fifth term in elections scheduled for April 9. But even being seen side by side with the American president could give Mr. Netanyahu a lift with some Israeli voters." NYT

A message from AARP:

The big drug companies don't see us as people. They see us as profits. Americans pay the highest drug prices in the world while they rake in billions. We shouldn't have to choose between buying medication

BEHIND THE SCENES ... **ALEX ISENSTADT:** "Pence woos 2016 anti-Trumpers to bankroll billion-dollar reelection": "Over a surf and turf dinner [at the Pebble Beach golf course, Vice President Mike Pence] showered praise on Paul Singer, a prominent New York City hedge fund manager who spent millions of dollars in 2016 bankrolling TV ads painting Trump as 'too reckless and dangerous to be president.'

"But as the group of assembled Republicans — some of whom have been similarly skeptical about the president in the past — looked on, Pence praised the 74-year-old billionaire as a leading free-market thinker and thanked him for his years of financial support to the party and conservative causes.

"The private dinner provides a window into a behind-the-scenes, Pence-led mission: to ensure that Republican givers who never came around to Trump in 2016 are on board for 2020. ... As it turned out, Pence had his eye on others at Pebble Beach. That evening, the vice president met privately with Warren Stephens, a 62-year-old Arkansas investment banker who, like Singer, was among the biggest contributors to the failed effort to thwart Trump. ...

"Pence's appearance at Monday's dinner was the latest in a string of overtures to the two megadonors: He also hosted Singer and Stephens at the White House for detailed briefings on the administration's legislative agenda. And there are indications the relationship has improved." <u>POLITICO</u>

WHAT TO WATCH ... JEFF SESSIONS will be at Main Justice today at 1:30 p.m. for his cabinet chair presentation ceremony.

WASHINGTON IS BUZZING that the end of the MUELLER INVESTIGATION could come this week. ...

DARREN SAMUELSOHN and JOSH GERSTEIN has you covered: "Your guide to the end of the Mueller probe"

ORCHIDS OF ASIA UPDATE ...

- -- "Trump wants Patriots owner Bob Kraft at White House despite prostitution bust," by Gabby Orr, Eliana Johnson, and Daniel Lippman: "New England Patriots owner Bob Kraft, who was caught up in a Florida prostitution sting last month, may appear at the White House before he appears in court.
- "President Donald Trump wants Kraft to join his players at the White House this spring for a celebration of their January Super Bowl victory, a prospect that has White House aides worried that it could turn a feel-good photo-op into an embarrassing media spectacle.
- "Trump has told staffers he wants Kraft there when the reigning NFL champions visit this spring, according to a senior White House official, who said the president and Kraft had spoken since Kraft's

-- **JUST WONDERING:** Will Tom Brady have a conflict again?

AT MAR-A-LAGO ... PALM BEACH POST'S CHRISTINE STAPLETON: "Not just Cindy Yang: Royals, felon, pop stars, others got access to Trump's Mar-a-Lago": "Although the walled club is seemingly impenetrable and membership dues and fees top \$200,000, a quick perusal of social media reveals Mar-a-Lago as a porous party destination accessible to anyone with the right contacts or a few hundred dollars. ...

"Although the identity of Mar-a-Lago's members is a carefully guarded secret and the Secret Service claims not to keep lists of visitors, a quick search on Instagram for photos geotagged at Mar-a-Lago or with #maralago returns tens of thousands of posts, with many of the photos taken inside the club.

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PLAYBOOK READS

PHOTO DU JOUR: British Prime Minister Theresa May leaves after making a statement on Wednesday, where she said it's a matter of "great personal regret" that the U.K. won't leave the EU with a deal on March 29. | Jonathan Brady/Pool photo via AP

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EXIT INTERVIEW: SCOTT GOTTLIEB on what he learned at FDA -- the departing FDA commissioner sat down with POLITICO's "Pulse Check" podcast to reflect on his two-year tenure. **HOT TOPIC:** How Gottlieb, who flung bombs at FDA when he was at conservative think tank AEI, ended up supporting some regulations that he previously criticized.

"You know, when you're at a think tank, looking at things in the abstract, it's very different than when you're running a regulatory agency and you have public health obligations," Gottlieb said. "I feel very comfortable that we made decisions against a good set of public health considerations and did what was right." *Listen to the episode*

MEDIAWATCH -- "New Paid Apple News Service Said to Feature Wall Street Journal," by NYT's Mike Isaac in San Francisco: "The Wall Street Journal plans to join a new paid subscription news service run by Apple, according to two people familiar with the plans, as other publishers chafe at the terms that

the Silicon Valley company is demanding of its partners.

"Other major publishers, including The New York Times and The Washington Post, have opted out of joining the subscription service ... Apple and The Wall Street Journal plan to announce the deal Monday at a media event at Apple's headquarters in Cupertino, Calif." NYT

- -- "Donna Brazile Explains Why She's Working for Fox News," by The New Yorker's Isaac Chotiner
- -- "Lachlan Murdoch takes control of Fox Corp. But how will he deal with President Trump?" by WaPo's Sarah Ellison in L.A.: "In [one] sign of the Murdochs and Trumps having close ties: When Ivanka Trump joined the White House, she relinquished her role as trustee of the fortune of Rupert Murdoch's two youngest children." WaPo
- -- THE DAILY BEAST'S ASAWIN SUEBSAENG and LACHLAN MARKAY have signed with Viking to write "Sinking in the Swamp: How Trump's Minions and Misfits Poisoned Washington," which is expected in early 2020, Morning Media's Michael Calderone reports. They are represented by Javelin's Keith Urbahn and Matt Latimer. <u>POLITICO</u>

MORNING MONEY AT #MIGLOBAL: POLITICO is partnering with the Milken Institute on this year's global conference in Beverly Hills, California from April 28-May 1. Ben White will once write a special edition "Morning Money" newsletter for the specifically for the conference, detailing all of the happenings, highlights, big conversations, evening festivities, and buzzy VIP gatherings. Sign up today to receive exclusive coverage and everything you need to know from the scene of #MIGlobal in this special edition pop-up newsletter.

PLAYBOOKERS

SPOTTED: Elizabeth Holmes, wearing all black, sipping a Starbucks coffee in terminal B at DCA. <u>Pic</u> ... Larry Kudlow at Cafe Milano on Wednesday night.

TRANSITION -- OBAMA ALUMNI: Lisa Monaco, former Obama W.H. homeland security adviser and former assistant AG for national security, is joining O'Melveny as a partner and will co-chair O'Melveny's data security and privacy group. She will continue to teach at NYU and co-chair the Aspen Cybersecurity Group.

BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: Jonah Goldberg, a fellow at AEI and a senior editor at National Review who is starting a new conservative media company with Steve Hayes later this year, is 5-o. **Some fun facts about Jonah:** "I was in the first co-ed class at a women's college where I played basketball (for the men's

team); I'm a pretty good cook (though not as good as my wife); I literally found my wife through an op-ed I wrote for The Wall Street Journal; I once wrote and produced a documentary about gargoyles; I am not well-known in Brazil." Playbook Plus Q&A

BIRTHDAYS: Ken Spain, partner at CGCN Group ... WaPo's Amy Joyce ... Grafton Pritchartt ... Alex Wilkes, SVP at America Rising Corp. (h/ts Colin Reed and Sarah Dolan) ... America Rising is 6 ... Fred Fielding, Reagan and Bush 43 WH counsel and now a partner at Morgan Lewis, is 8-0 ... Elizabeth Hines ... Brian Ellner, North America corporate practice lead at BCW Global ... Dan Wilson, VP of Mercury, is 36 ... John Galloway ... Sharon Castillo, Pfizer's senior director of media relations for Latin America and U.S. GR ... POLITICO's Melissa Mattoon and Beatrice Jin ... Kayla Wingbermuehle ... Matt Gerson (h/t Jon Haber) ... Andrew Bleeker, president and founder of Bully Pulpit Interactive (h/t Erik Smith) ...

... PCCC co-founder Adam Green ... former Rep. Jim Matheson (D-Utah) is 59 ... Lynn Hidalgo ... Sophie Theis ... Dana Martin is 35 ... Jeff Foreman ... Kaitlyn Shimmin ... Darrell Issa alum Jason Scism ... Katie Vicars ... Richard Barkauskas ... Ross Kyle, COS at Van Scoyoc Associates ... Michelle Franco ... Sarah Cottrell, who recently welcomed son Wilson -- pic ... James McMaster ... Keith Rabin ... Bush 43 alum Patrick Rhode is 5-0 (h/t Ed Cash) ... Lisa Caplan ... Teresa Skala ... Mike Collins, RNC and NRCC alum ... Dina Rasor ... Sayeh Tavangar ... Devin Nagy ... John Kalitka ... Alex Spillius ... Scott Raab ... Mirela Krawczyk ... Talin Sardarbegian ... Eric Stecklow ... Andrew Brown ... Nicole Bohannon (h/ts Teresa Vilmain)

A message from AARP:

There's no question about it: The big drug companies' profits are soaring while too many Americans are struggling to make ends meet. As we continue to pay the highest prescription drug prices in the world, drug companies continue to pocket billions of dollars. They can afford to spend nearly \$175 million for lobbying, and more than \$6 billion for advertising, and yet we're supposed to believe they can't find a way to lower prices? Americans shouldn't have to choose between buying medication and buying food for our families. It's time for Congress to step up and put people before profits. Stop the greed. Cut drug prices now. https://www.aarp.org/Rx

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To: Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]

Subject: POLITICO Playbook: Trump leans in on trade, invites Republicans to W.H.

Mar 21, 2019 View in browser

POLITICOPLAYBOOK

BY ANNA PALMER, JAKE SHERMAN AND DANIEL LIPPMAN





Listen to today's Audio Briefing



DRIVING THE DAY

SCOOP ... TRACKING TRADE, THE PRESIDENT'S TOP PRIORITY ... THE WHITE HOUSE has invited House Republicans on the USMCA -- new NAFTA -- whip team to meet with PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP next week. The invitations went out Wednesday to a few offices on Capitol Hill. The meeting will be Tuesday at 3:15 p.m., and it is restricted to members of Congress.

TRUMP'S personal involvement here is a new dynamic, and it's notable. Some people in the White House pushed back on us last week when we asked when the president would get involved. He's now getting involved, speaking to a small group of Republican members about his top legislative priority.

SPOTTED: Clarence Thomas leaving lunch at the Capital Grille. He was greeted by a TMZ reporter, who yelled "Justice! Justice! Who do you like in March Madness?" He laughed and said, "I like *you*."

ELIANA JOHNSON and DANIEL LIPPMAN: "Aides struggle to see strategy in Trump's Conway, McCain fights": "As the lurid disputes dominated cable news for several more hours, it was unclear whether Trump had any strategy in mind. Some people close to Trump speculated that he might be consciously trying to remake the news environment — creating a bizarre spectacle to displace criticism of his tepid response to the massacre of dozens of Muslims in New Zealand, the timing of the administration's decision to ground Boeing's 737 Max jets, and frenzied anticipation around the imminent release of special counsel Robert Mueller's final report.

"But the saga has left even White House aides accustomed to a president who bucks convention feeling uncomfortable. While the controversies may have pushed aside some bad news, they also trampled on Trump's Wednesday visit to an army tank manufacturing plant in swing-state Ohio." <u>POLITICO</u>

- -- NYT, A1: MAGGIE HABERMAN, ANNIE KARNI and MICHAEL TACKETT:

 "Months After John McCain's Death, Trump Keeps Feud With Him Alive" ...

 Print headline: "McCain Death Hasn't Silenced A Trump Feud"
- -- ASIDE FROM THE PLAINLY OBVIOUS observations about the McCain-Trump feud, TRUMP seems to be a bit confused on the substance. McCain voted against the skinny repeal, which wouldn't have repealed Obamacare immediately. It was aimed at getting the two sides -- the House and Senate -- into a negotiation. Yes, McCain stopped that. But it's completely plausible that the process would've gone sideways if McCain had voted yes. There were other efforts to repeal Obamacare after that that also blew up. But the president seems to have settled on McCain as a punching bag.
- -- HOW MCCAIN ALLIES ARE RESPONDING ... THE MCCAIN INSTITUTE has sent out a fact sheet about the late Arizona Republican's life. *The fact sheet*
- -- SEN. LINDSEY GRAHAM (R-S.C.) on McCain ... He said Trump bashing McCain hurts Trump more than it hurts the legacy of McCain: "My job is to represent the people of South Carolina. They want me to work with the president where I can. I've got to know the president. We have a good working relationship.

I like him. I don't like when he says things about my friend John McCain. And the best thing that can happen, I think, for all of us is to move forward and focus on the challenges like North Korea, Venezuela, our growing economy, fixing a broken immigration system and on and on and on." *1:20 video*

-- CNN'S MANU RAJU (@mkraju): "GOP senators up in 2020 have been mostly mum about Trump's attacks on McCain; today Martha McSally -- who is sitting in McCain's seat -- praised McCain's service and legacy but didn't call out Trump by name."

Good Thursday morning.

SECRETARY OF STATE MIKE POMPEO, in Jerusalem standing next to Benjamin Netanyahu, said: "Sadly we in the United States, we have seen anti-Semitic language uttered even in the great halls of our own Capitol. This should not be." *The video*

-- KEEP YOUR EYES AND EARS OPEN NEXT WEEK ... NYT'S EDWARD

WONG in Jerusalem: "Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pressed the United States to recognize Israeli governance of most of the Golan Heights during a visit by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Wednesday. His efforts underscored the growing possibility that the Trump administration may change the American stance on the territory. ...

"Mr. Netanyahu could press the issue of the Golan Heights with Mr. Trump when he meets with him on Monday and Tuesday. Any big gesture by Mr. Trump could help Mr. Netanyahu in his bid for a fifth term in elections scheduled for April 9. But even being seen side by side with the American president could give Mr. Netanyahu a lift with some Israeli voters." NYT

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BEHIND THE SCENES ... ALEX ISENSTADT: "Pence woos 2016 anti-

Trumpers to bankroll billion-dollar reelection": "Over a surf and turf dinner [at the Pebble Beach golf course, Vice President Mike Pence] showered praise on Paul Singer, a prominent New York City hedge fund manager who spent millions of dollars in 2016 bankrolling TV ads painting Trump as 'too reckless and dangerous to be president.'

"But as the group of assembled Republicans — some of whom have been similarly skeptical about the president in the past — looked on, Pence praised the 74-year-old billionaire as a leading free-market thinker and thanked him for his years of financial support to the party and conservative causes.

"The private dinner provides a window into a behind-the-scenes, Pence-led mission: to ensure that Republican givers who never came around to Trump in 2016 are on board for 2020. ... As it turned out, Pence had his eye on others at Pebble Beach. That evening, the vice president met privately with Warren Stephens, a 62-year-old Arkansas investment banker who, like Singer, was among the biggest contributors to the failed effort to thwart Trump. ...

"Pence's appearance at Monday's dinner was the latest in a string of overtures to the two megadonors: He also hosted Singer and Stephens at the White House for detailed briefings on the administration's legislative agenda. And there are indications the relationship has improved." <u>POLITICO</u>

WHAT TO WATCH ... JEFF SESSIONS will be at Main Justice today at 1:30 p.m. for his cabinet chair presentation ceremony.

WASHINGTON IS BUZZING that the end of the MUELLER INVESTIGATION could come this week. ... DARREN SAMUELSOHN and JOSH GERSTEIN has you covered: "Your guide to the end of the Mueller probe"

ORCHIDS OF ASIA UPDATE ...

-- "Trump wants Patriots owner Bob Kraft at White House despite prostitution bust," by Gabby Orr, Eliana Johnson, and Daniel Lippman: "New England Patriots owner Bob Kraft, who was caught up in a Florida prostitution sting last month, may appear at the White House before he appears in court.

"President Donald Trump wants Kraft to join his players at the White House this spring for a celebration of their January Super Bowl victory, a prospect that has White House aides worried that it could turn a feel-good photo-op into an embarrassing media spectacle.

"Trump has told staffers he wants Kraft there when the reigning NFL champions visit this spring, according to a senior White House official, who said the president and Kraft had spoken since Kraft's arrest late last month."

POLITICO

-- **JUST WONDERING:** Will Tom Brady have a conflict again?

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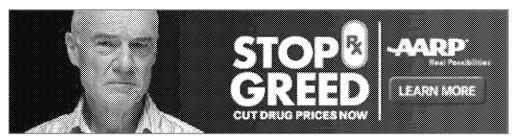
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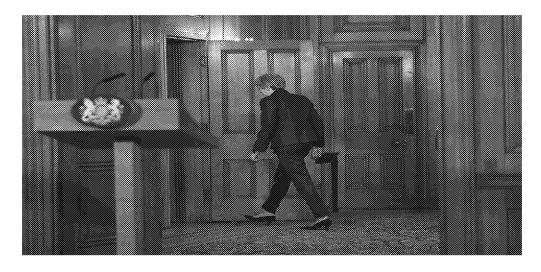


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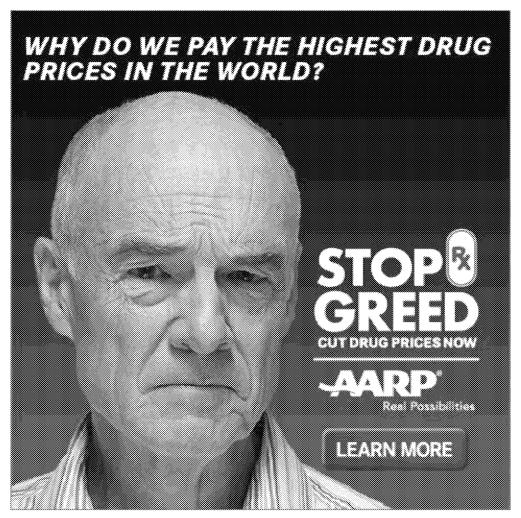
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Congress: protect people, not profits. Stop the greed. Cut drug prices now. https://www.aarp.org/Rx

BEYOND THE BELTWAY -- "Florida Is Tired of Being a Cheap Date': Andrew Gillum Wants to Help Democrats Win in 2020," by NYT's Astead Herndon: "In an interview, the former mayor and rising Democratic star confirms he's not running for president, and outlines his plans to mobilize Florida voters for the election."

EXIT INTERVIEW: SCOTT GOTTLIEB on what he learned at FDA -- the departing FDA commissioner sat down with POLITICO's "Pulse Check" podcast to

reflect on his two-year tenure. **HOT TOPIC:** How Gottlieb, who flung bombs at FDA when he was at conservative think tank AEI, ended up supporting some regulations that he previously criticized.

"You know, when you're at a think tank, looking at things in the abstract, it's very different than when you're running a regulatory agency and you have public health obligations," Gottlieb said. "I feel very comfortable that we made decisions against a good set of public health considerations and did what was right." <u>Listen</u> to the episode

MEDIAWATCH -- "New Paid Apple News Service Said to Feature Wall Street **Journal,"** by NYT's Mike Isaac in San Francisco: "The Wall Street Journal plans to join a new paid subscription news service run by Apple, according to two people familiar with the plans, as other publishers chafe at the terms that the Silicon Valley company is demanding of its partners.

- "Other major publishers, including The New York Times and The Washington Post, have opted out of joining the subscription service ... Apple and The Wall Street Journal plan to announce the deal Monday at a media event at Apple's headquarters in Cupertino, Calif." NYT
- -- "Donna Brazile Explains Why She's Working for Fox News," by The New Yorker's Isaac Chotiner
- -- "Lachlan Murdoch takes control of Fox Corp. But how will he deal with President Trump?" by WaPo's Sarah Ellison in L.A.: "In [one] sign of the Murdochs and Trumps having close ties: When Ivanka Trump joined the White House, she relinquished her role as trustee of the fortune of Rupert Murdoch's two youngest children." WaPo
- -- THE DAILY BEAST'S ASAWIN SUEBSAENG and LACHLAN MARKAY have signed with Viking to write "Sinking in the Swamp: How Trump's Minions and Misfits Poisoned Washington," which is expected in early 2020, Morning Media's Michael Calderone reports. They are represented by Javelin's Keith Urbahn and Matt Latimer. POLITICO

MORNING MONEY AT #MIGLOBAL: POLITICO is partnering with the Milken Institute on this year's global conference in Beverly Hills, California from April 28-May 1. Ben White will once write a special edition "Morning Money" newsletter for the specifically for the conference, detailing all of the happenings, highlights, big conversations, evening festivities, and buzzy VIP gatherings. Sign up today to receive exclusive coverage and everything you need to know from the scene of #MIGlobal in this special edition pop-up newsletter.

PLAYBOOKERS

SPOTTED: Elizabeth Holmes, wearing all black, sipping a Starbucks coffee in terminal B at DCA. *Pic* ... Larry Kudlow at Cafe Milano on Wednesday night.

TRANSITION -- OBAMA ALUMNI: Lisa Monaco, former Obama W.H. homeland security adviser and former assistant AG for national security, is joining O'Melveny as a partner and will co-chair O'Melveny's data security and privacy group. She will continue to teach at NYU and co-chair the Aspen Cybersecurity Group.

BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: Jonah Goldberg, a fellow at AEI and a senior editor at National Review who is starting a new conservative media company with Steve Hayes later this year, is 5-o. Some fun facts about Jonah: "I was in the first coed class at a women's college where I played basketball (for the men's team); I'm a pretty good cook (though not as good as my wife); I literally found my wife through an op-ed I wrote for The Wall Street Journal; I once wrote and produced a documentary about gargoyles; I am not well-known in Brazil." Playbook Plus Q&A

BIRTHDAYS: Ken Spain, partner at CGCN Group ... WaPo's Amy Joyce ... Grafton Pritchartt ... Alex Wilkes, SVP at America Rising Corp. (h/ts Colin Reed and Sarah Dolan) ... America Rising is 6 ... Fred Fielding, Reagan and Bush 43 WH counsel and now a partner at Morgan Lewis, is 8-0 ... Elizabeth Hines ... Brian Ellner, North America corporate practice lead at BCW Global ... Dan Wilson, VP of Mercury, is 36 ... John Galloway ... Sharon Castillo, Pfizer's senior director of media relations for Latin America and U.S. GR ... POLITICO's Melissa Mattoon and Beatrice Jin ... Kayla Wingbermuehle ... Matt Gerson (h/t Jon Haber) ...

Andrew Bleeker, president and founder of Bully Pulpit Interactive (h/t Erik Smith) ...

... PCCC co-founder Adam Green ... former Rep. Jim Matheson (D-Utah) is 59 ... Lynn Hidalgo ... Sophie Theis ... Dana Martin is 35 ... Jeff Foreman ... Kaitlyn Shimmin ... Darrell Issa alum Jason Scism ... Katie Vicars ... Richard Barkauskas ... Ross Kyle, COS at Van Scoyoc Associates ... Michelle Franco ... Sarah Cottrell, who recently welcomed son Wilson -- pic ... James McMaster ... Keith Rabin ... Bush 43 alum Patrick Rhode is 5-0 (h/t Ed Cash) ... Lisa Caplan ... Teresa Skala ... Mike Collins, RNC and NRCC alum ... Dina Rasor ... Sayeh Tavangar ... Devin Nagy ... John Kalitka ... Alex Spillius ... Scott Raab ... Mirela Krawczyk ... Talin Sardarbegian ... Eric Stecklow ... Andrew Brown ... Nicole Bohannon (h/ts Teresa Vilmain)

A message from AARP

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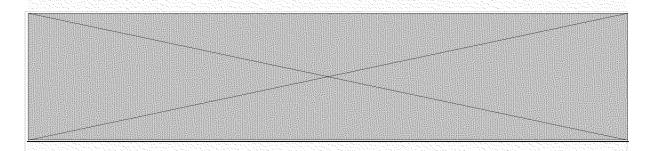
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"FACE THE NATION" FULL TRANSCRIPT March 17, 2019

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MARGARET BRENNAN: It's Sunday, March 17th. I'm Margaret Brennan and this is FACE THE NATION.

A white supremacist kills fifty in a terror attack at two mosques in New Zealand. Does President Trump see white nationalism as a rising threat around the world?

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP: I don't really. I think it's a small group of people that have very, very serious problems. I guess if you look at what happened in New Zealand, perhaps that's the case.

MARGARET BRENNAN: And the President issues his first veto after being rebuked by twelve Republican senators on a bill that would reject his declaration of a national emergency at the border. We'll talk with acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney and hear from Virginia Democratic Senator Tim Kaine about why he thinks the administration is withholding crucial information from Congress before a vote to override that veto. And as more candidates jump into the race, all eyes are on one who just might have dropped a hint last night.

JOE BIDEN: I have the most progressive record of anybody running for the-- if anybody who would run.

MARGARET BRENNAN: We'll have analysis on all the news. Plus, former U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York, Preet Bharara. And a special look at Capitol Hill's unusual spring interns with CBS News special correspondent James Brown.

That's all ahead on FACE THE NATION.

Good morning and welcome to FACE THE NATION. Happy St. Patrick's Day. We begin with acting White House Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney, and happy St. Patrick's Day to you.

MICK MULVANEY (Acting White House Chief of Staff/@MickMulvaneyOMB): And to you, Ms. Brennan. So.

MARGARET BRENNAN: I want to get right to it in the wake of this horrific terror attack in New Zealand. You know there's a lot of parsing of the President's own language in referring to what happened here. Broadly speaking, the number of attacks and support for white supremacy is up, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center and even a Trump-appointed attorney in the state of Virginia, Thomas Cullen was recently quoted as saying, "... white supremacy and far right extremism are among the greatest domestic security threats facing the United States." Has the President been briefed on this?

MICK MULVANEY: I don't know who that gentleman is. Certainly the President's briefed on all of--

MARGARET BRENNAN: You know who the Southern Poverty Law Center is?

MICK MULVANEY: I do, I do. The President's absolutely briefed on all of the threats, both domestic and international. But I want to push back against this idea that every time something bad happens everywhere around the world, folks who don't like Donald Trump seem to blame it on Donald Trump. I'm hoping we can get--

MARGARET BRENNAN: I'm not blaming it on the President, I was asking about-

MICK MULVANEY: I didn't say-- didn't say--

MARGARET BRENNAN: --his characterization.

MICK MULVANEY: I didn't say you. I'm saying that that's clearly what some folks wanted-want to do. I've heard other members of-- of the Democrat Party trying to do it, folks at the Southern Poverty Law Center here trying to do it. This was a tragic thing that happened in New Zealand--

MARGARET BRENNAN: They were just saying the number of white nationalist groups has surged by fifty percent.

MICK MULVANEY: Since Trump has become office, right?

MARGARET BRENNAN: Well, in the past year.

MICK MULVANEY: There you go. So, he-- here's the point. Why can't we--

MARGARET BRENNAN: So you disagree that it's a rising threat?

MICK MULVANEY: I-- I-- I disagree that there's a causal link between Donald Trump being President and something like this happening in New Zealand.

MARGARET BRENNAN: But that's not the argument or-- or the suggestion there--

MICK MULVANEY: Okay, good.

MARGARET BRENNAN: --by the judge or by that statistic. Is the President aware that this is a rising threat?

MICK MULVANEY: Again, a rising threat. I think the President you saw-- you saw him asked the other day does he think it's a rising threat and he says, no, I think there's information that would back that up. The-- the issue is how do you stop these crazy people, whether or not there's one of them or four of them, doesn't make a difference if they're willing to go on live TV and stream the murder of people. So I think that's where the time is better spent. Instead of worrying about, well, who's to-- who's to blame, how do we stop from doing this. Donald Trump is no more to blame for what happened in New Zealand than-- than Mark Zuckerberg is because he invented Facebook. There are some terrible people in the world. We need to work with our partners, of which New Zealand is one of, and to try and figure out a way to find them, expose them, and bring them to justice.

MARGARET BRENNAN: Well, President Trump and certainly during the campaign talked quite a lot about the need to be specific, to name a threat in order to counter it. So why minimize it? Why not directly address white supremacy and, specifically, Islamophobia?

MICK MULVANEY: Yeah. I -- I get a lot of questions about--

MARGARET BRENNAN: Because a number of world leaders did and the President didn't.

MICK MULVANEY: I get a lot of questions from people saying why-- you need to tell the President to do X, you need to tell the President to go and give it an Oval Office address on this or on that. That's not how the system works. The President communicates in his way. Different presidents have communicated in their way. I don't think anybody can-- can claim that Donald Trump hasn't done exactly what we would want him to do in this circumstance. We've immediately reached out to our allies. We've expressed the-- the absolute disgust at the tragic-- at the tragic events. We're doing what Presidents are supposed to do. That doesn't mean it's going to make everybody happy because of the hyper partisan times we live in. But again, I-- I--

really, it's-- it frustrates me just as a citizen that everything something-- every time something goes wrong around the world now, not just in our country, somehow the President of the United States must be responsible. And that's just-- that's absurd and it doesn't help contribute to the dialogue that's necessary to fix these problems.

MARGARET BRENNAN: Point taken, but the-- the President of the United States carries a megaphone louder than anyone--

MICK MULVANEY: Mm-Hm.

MARGARET BRENNAN: --in the world and arguably this President likes to use his. So because you're frustrated, why not remove any shadow of a doubt? I mean during the campaign, as you know, as a candidate the President called for a ban on all Muslims entering the United States. He said Islam hates us. This kind of language in the past leads to these questions of why isn't the President now directly using that megaphone to condemn it.

MICK MULVANEY: Well, then take-- take the-- take-- take the words and put them in one category and take the actions and put them in another. Something the President doesn't get hardly any credit for or any attention to is the work he's done in defense of religious minorities all around the world up to and including Muslims in the Middle East. Some of the religious minorities that are the worst oppressed to the Middle East are some of the ones that this administration has been doing-- going to great lengths to protect. So I hear what folks says, "Oh, Donald Trump said this during the campaign." Look at what we've done while we've been here. I don't think anybody could say that the President is anti-Muslim.

MARGARET BRENNAN: Well, the President's tweeting now about a TV host who was suspended for anti-Muslim rhetoric. So it's-- it's I think a fair question to ask you about this, but I want to move on to one of the fights that is going on in Congress and questions from a number of senators about exactly what programs are going to lose funding--

MICK MULVANEY: Sure.

MARGARET BRENNAN: --in order to put together funding for the border wall. When will the White House give this detailed list, specifically on military projects, to Congress?

MICK MULVANEY: It could be a while and here's why. Here's-- here's what's happening, is that we've already told Congress this, which is that none of the programs that were scheduled to be started or what we call obligated in 2019, so between now and the end of September, will be impacted at all.

MARGARET BRENNAN: The service chiefs have told Congress they have that list, but the White House is not--

MICK MULVANEY: No.

MARGARET BRENNAN: --handing that list over.

MICK MULVANEY: No, no. That that's abs-- I know of no list. And if anybody should, it would be me. There's no list of projects that are absolutely going to not be funded so that the wall can be. What it is, is a list of programs that fit the criteria that I've just laid out for you, which is that they are meant to be funded beyond the end of this fiscal year. Why is that important? Because if we-- if it's going to be a project that would have been funded say in 2021 it gives us another couple of years to what we call backfill. Congress will pass another appropriation this year, next year, so that ultimately none of the programs would be impacted.

MARGARET BRENNAN: Senator Tim Kaine who sits on Armed Services is going to be on the show later in the program.

MICK MULVANEY: Mm-Hm.

MARGARET BRENNAN: But when we spoke with him, he, specifically, said that he thinks the White House is withholding these details until after this upcoming vote on the veto override occurs. In other words--

MICK MULVANEY: Yup--

MARGARET BRENNAN: --you're trying to keep Republicans on board and if you fully inform them about what you're going to do to their district, then you might lose their vote.

MICK MULVANEY: I-- I don't-- I'll watch the show and, in fact, if I catch Tim in the greenroom, I'll ask him what the basis is for that. Does he just think it because he wants it to be true or someone told him there was actually a list? Because, again, I'm chief of staff. I'm also still technically over at the Office of Management and Budget.

MARGARET BRENNAN: And you still don't know what's getting cut?

MICK MULVANEY: And I know of no list that specifically--

MARGARET BRENNAN: And you don't know what's getting cut?

MICK MULVANEY: That's correct. I know of the universe of things that might be delayed or reduced or cut in a very extreme circumstance that could be funded-- they used to fund the wall, but a list of a decision that's already been made saying this money is going to be cut--

MARGARET BRENNAN: Mm-Hm.

MICK MULVANEY: -- and spent over there, that's not been made yet.

MARGARET BRENNAN: So remove any doubt you say, no matter what these details are, you still have the votes to override--

MICK MULVANEY: Oh, yeah.

MARGARET BRENNAN: --this veto.

MICK MULVANEY: Absolutely.

MARGARET BRENNAN: To block any kind of override.

MICK MULVANEY: Yes. No, we fully expect the veto override to fail in the House.

MARGARET BRENNAN: All right. Thank you, Mick Mulvaney--

MICK MULVANEY: Thanks, Margaret.

MARGARET BRENNAN: -- for joining us.

Just to clarify that host is Fox News' Jeanine Pirro. The network has condemned her commentary and her broadcast did not air last night.

We spoke yesterday with Virginia Democratic Senator Tim Kaine. He had just returned from a visit to the Venezuelan border and spoke to us from Bogota, Colombia. We asked Senator Kaine about President Trump saying that he did not think white nationalism was a rising threat around the world.

SENATOR TIM KAINE (D-Virginia/@timkaine): Margaret, it is on the rise and the President should call it out but, sadly, he is not doing that. We saw in the aftermath of the horrible attack in Charlottesville that he tried to say that the white supremacists, neo-Nazis, neo-Confederates there were just, you know, good people. But when you see church shootings in Charleston, a synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh, you see this hate-filled manifesto of the shooter in New Zealand who is murdering Muslims, we have to confront the fact that there-- there is a rise in white supremacy, anti-immigrant, anti-Muslim attitudes. The President uses language often that's very similar to the language used by these bigots and racists. And if he is not going to call it out then other leaders have to do more to call it out and I certainly will.

MARGARET BRENNAN: Well, the President did say it was a horrible thing that happened but he said that the white nationalism issue is just a small group of people that have very, very serious problems. What do you attribute the rise to?

SENATOR TIM KAINE: Well, they have problems but I think the President is using language that emboldens them. He is not creating them. They're out there. But you know at the same time as he was tweeting out yesterday his support for the family members in New Zealand, and that was appropriate, he was vetoing the Senate's rejection of his emergency declaration from Thursday. And he used the word invaders to characterize people coming to the nation's southern borders which was exactly the same phrase that the shooter in New Zealand used to characterize the Muslims that he was attacking. That kind of language from the person who probably has the loudest microphone on the planet Earth is hurtful and dangerous and it tends to incite violence.

MARGARET BRENNAN: I want to ask you about an exchange you had this week that seemed quite tense. You were very clearly frustrated with the acting Secretary of Defense Shanahan because you were asking why a list of military projects had not been provided to Congress that would be directly impacted by funding cuts due to re-allocation for the President's border wall.

SENATOR TIM KAINE: I'm on the Armed Services Committee. I represent Virginia. I have a child in the military so I sent a letter on February 15th to the Secretary of Defense and said if you're going to ransack the Pentagon's budget, tell me what projects you're going to cut or delay or eliminate. They wouldn't provide an answer. At the hearing on Thursday we-- we're now going to vote that day on whether we support or reject the emergency declaration and they still hadn't answered our question, what projects are at stake? At the hearing he said oh, I'll send you the list later this afternoon. And you're right I kind of blew up at him. You're going to give us the list after we vote? This is highly relevant to the vote about the President's emergency declaration. What projects are you going to ransack out of the Pentagon budget? Is it going to be military housing? Is it going to be trying to make our bases safer from terrorism with construction projects? Is it going to be rebuilding Tyndall Air Force Base that got blitzed in the hurricanes last fall? And they said they would give us the list after. But, Margaret, to add insult to injury they had to walk that back. They don't even want to give us the list now at all because we're going to have to have an override vote. I don't think the White House wants us to see the list before the override vote.

MARGARET BRENNAN: Why do you think the White House is withholding this information you say is so relevant because of an upcoming vote?

SENATOR TIM KAINE: I think there's one reason.

MARGARET BRENNAN: You're-- you're connecting. You think they're trying to influence the outcome of it.

SENATOR TIM KAINE: Absolutely. This is not the Secretary of Defense in my view, this is the White House wanting to hold the list back because they worry that if Senators and House members saw the potential projects that were going to be ransacked to pay for the President's wall they would lose votes. And I think they're going to try to hide the list until that veto override vote occurs in the House and then in the Senate.

MARGARET BRENNAN: You are, of course, in Colombia nearby. What is a country that is really crippled in many ways economically right now, Venezuela. There are about three million refugees who have fled, the energy and oil industry is collapsing as is the economy there. What is it that you were going to the border to see? What did you learn?

SENATOR TIM KAINE: Well, Margaret, I wanted to see a couple of things. One, to support the Colombian government because their effort to provide assistance to these millions of Venezuelanos has been really momentous. But, secondly, learn what more the United States can do. We have worked together actually in an accord between the administration and Congress to provide significant amounts of humanitarian aid, to-- to work together, to pull together a coalition of nations.

MARGARET BRENNAN: Nicolás Maduro still is in charge of that country whether we like it or not. And these sanctions have not seemingly changed his calculus. The visas, the diplomatic isolation, what is this actually accomplishing at this point?

SENATOR TIM KAINE: Well, it's-- it's giving hope to Venezuelans that their fina-- there may finally be some change. The question isn't whether Maduro likes it or not, the question is what do the Venezuelan people want. And the national assembly has determined that the election of President Mazur-- Maduro was illegitimate. There needs to be a new-- new government. So what more can we do?

MARGARET BRENNAN: Yeah.

SENATOR TIM KAINE: More humanitarian aid, more work together to pull more nations into our coalition. The sanctions are important. They're having an effect. Sanctions are economic but they're also visa restrictions on Maduro and his cronies as they try to travel abroad. We need to give hope to the Venezuelan people that we stand with them and support them. It's a massive humanitarian crisis driven by one person, Nicolás Maduro, and the Venezuelan people are speaking out and they want something better.

MARGARET BRENNAN: Has the Trump administration whose policy you seem to support right now, have they underestimated how strong he is?

SENATOR TIM KAINE: I don't know that they've underestimated it. Look, this is-- this is not easy. It's a difficult situation. And I do generally support what the Trump administration has done with one exception--I think loose talk about U.S. military action is a big mistake. One, because that's not for the President, it's for Congress. But, second, the right strategy here-there's only one person using the military against Venezuelans and it's Maduro.

MARGARET BRENNAN: Senator Kaine, thank you for joining us. Safe travels.

SENATOR TIM KAINE: Thank you, Margaret. Absolutely.

MARGARET BRENNAN: We'll be back in one minute with a lot more FACE THE NATION.

(ANNOUNCEMENTS)

MARGARET BRENNAN: We are back now with former federal prosecutor Preet Bharara. He was of course, fired by President Trump after he refused to resign as U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York. And he has a new book out, Doing Justice: A Prosecutor's Thoughts on Crime, Punishment, and the Rule of Law. Preet, good to have you here.

PREET BHARARA (Former U.S. Attorney/@PreetBharara/Doing Justice): Thanks for having me.

MARGARET BRENNAN: I read the book. I want to get to some of the news of the week but first ask you actually how you ended this book because I think it resonates this week in the wake of the terror attack in New Zealand. You recount a story and a case of a-- of a hate crime against someone who wanted to go out and kill Arabs after 9/11 and ended up killing some-- or-and then injuring some South Asian individuals instead. Is this just a continuation of Islamophobia, of white nationalism? Is there something here or is, as the President says, it's not really a broader issue at all?

PREET BHARARA: Well, thanks for asking about the end of the book. I-- I think a lot of the world is mourning the loss of innocent lives, up to fifty now in New Zealand. And, you know, from my old vantage point as a law enforcement officer, the chief law enforcement officer federally in Manhattan, law enforcement has certain tools, right? You can do surveillance. You can infiltrate organizations that propound hate and try to engage in terrorist acts. You can also hold people accountable after the fact. But one of the points I make in the book Doing Justice over and over again is laws are not enough.

MARGARET BRENNAN: Mm-Hm.

PREET BHARARA: Law can do some things but at the end of the day if you want to quell people's hatred, you want to make people get along better, you want to have harmony, you have to have good people who are willing to-- to step up to the plate and do, among other things, call out bad things when they happen. In the case that I was referring to that you mentioned in the-- in the end part of the book, it was a Bangladeshi immigrant after 9/11 who was shot in the face by someone, Mark Anthony Stroman, who decided that he wanted to take revenge on behalf of I guess his race for people who had perpetrated the acts of 9/11. Obviously, going and randomly shooting people where they worked. And Rais Bhuiyan was not killed and decided in a way that I think is extraordinary to forgive the person who tried to kill him and tried to get him off death row and-- and spare him the death penalty. He wasn't ultimately successful. But to my mind it's an-- it's an inspiring story of how some people go beyond what the law even requires, beyond

what the law allows, to try to have forgiveness and-- and harmony go forward in the world. And I think we need a little bit more of that and a little bit less of the nasty rhetoric and a little bit less of, you know, people like the President not stepping up to the plate and calling out bad things when they're happening.

MARGARET BRENNAN: Important note there in this week. But I want to turn to some of the other news that we've seen on the political and legal front. You know, we saw on Friday the special counsel again ask for the fifth time a delay in the sentencing of Rick Gates who was a-ra Trump campaign deputy because it was said he's cooperating. How should people understand this? What does this mean?

PREET BHARARA: Well, not just cooperating but cooperating qu-- in-- in, quote, unquote, "several investigations." And so you know I'm an outsider now and I don't still run the Southern District of New York and I'm not aware of what's going with various investigations that sometimes, you know, intersect with the special counsel's investigation. But I think people should view with some skepticism the notion that gets breathlessly reported every week that the Mueller investigation is coming to an end. It may be, because Andrew Weissman who is one of the top deputies, in fact, the top deputy with Ro-- Robert Mueller, announced that he was stepping down which indicates maybe it's wrapping up. But then, as you point out, you have this letter about Rick Gates who's cooperating in multiple investigations and they delay the sentencing which seems to indicate that he is substantially cooperating and engaging in some success for the prosecuting team. So you might expect other indictments, other work going forward. So it doesn't seem to me based on that, although I don't know--

MARGARET BRENNAN: Mm-Hm.

PREET BHARARA: --that the work of the special counsel is ending anytime soon. Unless it's the case-- the one caveat I have is, unless it's the case that the cases on which Rick Gates is cooperating are being parceled out-- parceled out to other U.S. attorney's office-- offices like the Southern District of New York or D.C. or somewhere else so the special counsel team can step back and have its work be done.

MARGARET BRENNAN: Steve Bannon and a few other individuals have said that actually the biggest risk to the President is not from the special counsel but actually the Southern District of New York, which you know well. Do you agree with that?

PREET BHARARA: Well, I don't know if I-- I would frame it that way. It's a sort of a polemical way to frame it. But yeah, in the sense that the SDNY, which I led for seven and a half years, doesn't have the circumscription on its ambit in the same way the special counsel does. The special counsel was appointed, you know, under a particular regulation and was supposed to look at only things relating to interference in the election and potentially collusion, quote, unquote, "collusion" with-- with Russians in connection with the-- with the-election and anything arising from it. And one of those things that ari-- that arose from it was

obstruction. The Southern District of New York has a lot of people in it whose mission is only to find crime, be able to prove it beyond a reasonable doubt if it's in the interest of justice to do it. And they're very aggressive and they're very fearless and they're very independent. They don't care about politics. When I was there we prosecuted Democrats and Republicans and it didn't matter who they were, you know, affiliated with.

MARGARET BRENNAN: Yeah.

PREET BHARARA: And-- and so when one of-- one of the things I tried to say in the book is to explain the philosophy and the culture of the men and women of the Southern District of New York.

MARGARET BRENNAN: And, of course, state and federal charges and how a President's pardon could affect them are-- are different, too. I want to ask you as well about Paul Manafort. He was sentenced in DC this week. The sentence was added to. Before that in Virginia what some would characterize as a light sentence, do you think justice is done?

PREET BHARARA: It's hard to say. You know punishment is a very difficult thing to calibrate. You know whether a few months more or a few months less--

MARGARET BRENNAN: Yeah.

PREET BHARARA: --is in the interest of justice, is hard to measure like-- like mathematics. I agree with the people who said that the first sentence of Paul Manafort of forty-seven months was a bit low, given the guidelines and given the nature and seriousness of the crime and how long it went on. I think that overall the addition of three and a half years from Judge Amy Berman Jackson makes it overall a seven and a half years sentence which is closer to right. I still think it's overall low, but it's hard to determine.

MARGARET BRENNAN: Preet Bharara, thank you for joining us.

PREET BHARARA: Thanks, Margaret.

MARGARET BRENNAN: The book is Doing Justice.

We'll be back in a moment.

(ANNOUNCEMENTS)

MARGARET BRENNAN: There are two more candidates in the presidential race, but it's one who is not in the race, at least yet, who raised eyebrows when he accidentally made a slip in his speech last night. Our Ed O'Keefe reports.

(Begin VT)

ED O'KEEFE: The man many Democrats are waiting for sure sounded like a presidential candidate Saturday night.

JOE BIDEN: I have the most progressive record for anybody running for the united-- if anybody who would run.

ED O'KEEFE: Former Vice President Joe Biden is expected to make it official next month.

SENATOR KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND (campaign video): That's why I'm running for President. And it's why I'm asking you for your support.

ED O'KEEFE: New York Senator Kirsten Gillibrand today became the fourteenth Democrat to officially launch a presidential bid even though she's been basically campaigning for the job for eight weeks. Gillibrand plans to formally kick off her campaign next Sunday outside Trump Tower in New York. Other candidates traveled to early primary states this weekend hoping to build support.

SENATOR CORY BOOKER (Campaign 2020): We have common pain all over this country, but we've lost our sense of common purpose.

ED O'KEEFE: And Beto O'rourke wrapped up a three-day tour in Iowa that launched his campaign.

BETO O'ROURKE: This is my first time to ever visit Iowa.

ED O'KEEFE: O'Rourke narrowly lost the U.S. Senate bid in Texas last year and presidential buzz has been building ever since. His rollout was treated like a major media event. He told Vanity Fair magazine for a cover story, "I'm just born to be in it." And he sat for his first indepth interview as a candidate with CBS THIS MORNING co-host Gayle King.

GAYLE KING (CBS THIS MORNING): Do you consider yourself more moderate or more progressive?

BETO O'ROURKE (CBS THIS MORNING): Yeah, you know, if-- if I think about a term like progressive, I will make sure that everybody has a chance, that our democracy fully reflects the genius of this country, that we make the investments in one another, and that's universal guaranteed high-quality health care, it's a living wage for everyone who works, it's supporting those who are looking for jobs. So if that is progressive I'm a progressive.

GAYLE KING (CBS THIS MORNING): You're a progressive?

BETO O'ROURKE (CBS THIS MORNING): Yes.

GAYLE KING (CBS THIS MORNING): All right. So I don't even need to go into moderate then?

(End VT)

ED O'KEEFE: Meanwhile, former Florida governor and 2016 candidate Jeb Bush said this weekend that Republicans ought to be given a choice, suggesting someone needs to launch a primary challenge to President Trump. He named Maryland Governor Larry Hogan as a possible option. Hogan told us a few weeks ago he isn't ruling it out. Margaret.

MARGARET BRENNAN: Ed, thank you. More on 2020 when we come back.

(ANNOUNCEMENTS)

MARGARET BRENNAN: We'll be back in a moment.

(ANNOUNCEMENTS)

MARGARET BRENNAN: Welcome back to FACE THE NATION. Joining us for some more 2020 analysis are Jamal Simmons, Democratic strategist and host on Hill.TV, Amy Walter of the The Cook Political Report, and, of course, our own Ed O'Keefe.

Ed, you just laid out the crowded field. I was speaking to a Democratic strategist this week or fund-raiser I should say who says this is like Waiting for Godot.

ED O'KEEFE (CBS News Political Correspondent/@edokeefe): When we're waiting for Biden.

MARGARET BRENNAN: We're waiting for Biden.

ED O'KEEFE: Absolutely.

MARGARET BRENNAN: And still not sure. Godot never shows up.

ED O'KEEFE: Right.

MARGARET BRENNAN: Is Biden going to show up?

ED O'KEEFE: I mean if you believe the verbal slip-up last night at the Dover Downs, yes, he certainly made it seem like he is. You know I asked him earlier this week when he was at this firefighters' union event here in DC on (INDISTINCT) what's the hold-up. He says, "There's no hold-up." He just looks at history, which suggests that people who have waited a little longer

than this current crop that got in, you know, at the stroke of midnight, essentially, as the year began and-- and thinks that he has some time to-- to, you know, to spend because he's got the name--

MARGARET BRENNAN: Right.

ED O'KEEFE: --and clearly has some money ready and-- and ready to come has locked up some staff. We don't know to what extent there-- the size of his operation will be. But all signs still point to early April some time before Tax Day, April 15th.

JAMAL SIMMONS (Hill.TV/@JamalSimmons): You know, Ed mentions history. And with the vice president, it's-- it's-- history is actually a pretty tough marker for him.

MARGARET BRENNAN: What do you mean?

JAMAL SIMMONS: Democrats, you know, he's very popular. People all over the country are hungering for him to get into the race, but Democrats have never elected a sitting or former vice president to the White House before. Democrats also, if you look at—if you go back and look at some of the 530A polling, the person who was ahead in the national polls at this period a year out from election day did not ultimately win the White House. And there's only three times that person won the nomination. It was Walter Mondale in 1984, Al Gore in 2000, and Hillary Clinton in 2016. Hillary is a tough marker. So, the vice president really has to I think take on the fact that he's going up against these trends, and that means he has to do things differently. He needs a more diverse staff then he has had in the past that has got to be willing to talk about progressive issues in a way that's more compelling that he has in the past, and I hope that's what they're planning.

MARGARET BRENNAN: Amy, do we need new blood, as former President Obama suggested? I mean he's-- he's not necessarily going to--

AMY WALTER (Cook Political Report/The Takeaway/@amyewalter): He's not the newest person in the-- in the mix for his years there on the Senate side. It's really interesting watching Democrats grappling with their choices this time they have. All kinds of opportunities here, generationally, on race, and--

MARGARET BRENNAN: And gender.

AMY WALTER: And it seems-- and on gender. And it seems that the issue really comes down to this. How safe of a choice do Democrats want to make. And by safe we have to-- we all are going to determine that, the Democrats are going to determine that, too, in very different ways. And the safe being really whose the one who we know can beat Donald Trump. That's the-- that's the question a lot of Democrats are asking themselves. What does that mean versus who is the most disruptive--

MARGARET BRENNAN: Mm-Hm.

AMY WALTER: --in this field? Waiting for Godot is a good description. I also think primaries are a lot like trying to figure out who you're going to marry. And do you go with the person who really races your heart or do you go with the person you want to bring home to your parents, right? And Democrats, it-- it recently--

MARGARET BRENNAN: And you don't think the two things can be the same thing?

AMY WALTER: Sometimes--

MARGARET BRENNAN: Very nice.

AMY WALTER: Sometimes they can be both.

MARGARET BRENNAN: Right.

AMY WALTER: I think Barack Obama was both.

MARGARET BRENNAN: Mm-Hm.

AMY WALTER: I think in 2004, remember there was that infamous bumper sticker that said, "Dated Dean, Married Kerry." Right?

JAMAL SIMMONS: How that work out?

AMY WALTER: It was a lot of fun. And-- and that's what the-- and if you're a Democrat-- a lot of Democrats will say, "Exactly, when we made the safe choice, John Kerry, Hillary Clinton, we lost." We got to go with somebody who is going to be engaging in a very different way. The other-- just one more quick thing about engaging and broadening, going away from safe, it's also about broadening the electoral map--

MARGARET BRENNAN: Right.

AMY WALTER: --outside of the presidential race, which is the Senate. There are a bunch of Democrats I talked to who say, we could win the White House, but if we don't win the Senate, then guess what, not a lot of this is going to matter. We got to go into places like Texas, Iowa, North Carolina, Georgia, those are the races that are going to determine control of the Senate.

JAMAL SIMMONS: Arizona.

AMY WALTER: Yeah. Right.

MARGARET BRENNAN: It was such a rollout for Beto O'Rourke.

ED O'KEEFE: Right.

MARGARET BRENNAN: I mean, he-- people are acting, like, he is anointed. Is this going to backfire on him?

ED O'KEEFE: Well, and I think to the— to the charge that the media may have overdone it, we have to remember something, I made this point repeatedly in our reporting this past week. You talk to every other campaign that's involved in this right now, the one name that kept coming up in private conversations—

MARGARET BRENNAN: Mm-Hm.

ED O'KEEFE: --was always him. Is he going to do it? Do you think he can raise eighty million dollars again? So this was them, essentially, goading us into saying is, you know, they are-they are scared of him. Very scared of him. And this coffee shop counter-top campaign that he launched this week by jumping up on countertops repeatedly. Was it you that said I hope he brought the Windex along?

AMY WALTER: Yeah. You need some use of, well, Clorox Wipes. People are eating on those things.

ED O'KEEFE: You know, it-- it seems to have gone well for him. And-- and he started very strategically in-- in southeastern Iowa, part of the state where Democrats used to dominate and have struggled in recent years. And repeatedly people said to me, "You know, they don't usually come to this part of the state until later in the primary, so we give him a lot of credit for doing it." And we'll see.

MARGARET BRENNAN: Amy, there has been some attention to perhaps a double standard here, that Beto delayed making an announcement, he had this sort of soul-searching played out in the press, that a female candidate of the five or so we have so far--

AMY WALTER: Right.

MARGARET BRENNAN: --would have been punished for looking indecisive. Do you buy that?

AMY WALTER: There is still-- there is still going-- there will always be a double standard. When we look at whether the candidates of color of women are going to be judged to different standards than white men. At the same time, I do think every one of these candidates gets their little boomlet--

ED O'KEEFE: Mm-Hm.

AMY WALTER: --gets their time to make their case. And this is why the debates are going to be so important. Because all this is right now sort of fluff.

MARGARET BRENNAN: Mm-Hm.

AMY WALTER: When they're all on the stage together, making the case that they have the best opportunity, I'm the best person here, to go up against Donald Trump. That's when voters really get to see what they are made of.

JAMAL SIMMONS: You know, he is a little bit. I-- I-- I would argue that Beto O'Rourke is the best natural candidate running--

MARGARET BRENNAN: Natural.

JAMAL SIMMONS: --for this area-- for this era. Right? He understands social media. He is-he is willing to engage in that sphere in a way that Donald Trump has engaged in, and nobody
else really kind of can do that. What we don't know is can he do all the other things that have to
be done in a campaign, can he build out an organization, can he raise the money, can he
withstand all the hits that are going to come his way? Those are really big things. But, you
know, this week, there was a kind of an-- a-- a little bit of an upset. A lot of women I talked to
were really upset about the way he talked about his wife and raising their kids. That came up a
lot. So I was thinking on myself to start calling around to some of the people and friends and
family.

MARGARET BRENNAN: Because he said his wife mainly raises the children.

JAMAL SIMMONS: That's right. So I started calling women who don't live in Washington, who don't live in California and asking them. Michigan, Georgia, Texas, Ohio, asking them what they thought. And then what-- the most interesting response was a seventy-year-old woman relative in Detroit who said to me, "Oh, yeah, I saw that. I really liked that." So I think some friends--

MARGARET BRENNAN: Maybe she thought she was giving-- she thought he was giving his wife credit.

JAMAL SIMMONS: She thought he was giving his wife credit.

MARGARET BRENNAN: I got it.

JAMAL SIMMONS: So I think-- I think sometimes that-- that things sound differently to

people who live in different places and we just have to-- we have to wait and see how this all--

AMY WALTER: Right.

JAMAL SIMMONS: --(INDISTINCT) out.

AMY WALTER: Which is why the process is so important. You haven't heard Democrats yet. It's going to happen. Say, this process is too unwieldy, we are going to damage the ultimate nominee by having all of these debates and this, you know, lasting far too long. Right now I think it is the only way to determine which one of these candidates meets all of those different criteria that Jamal pointed out, of who is going to be able to raise the money, look like they can stand up to the President, be able to be inspiring, also have a pathway to the White House that looks to voters--

MARGARET BRENNAN: Mm-Hm.

AMY WALTER: --like a realistic path to the White House.

MARGARET BRENNAN: All right. Well, we'll have the leave it there with the three of you. But more to come when we come back from this break with some analysis of the week that was.

(ANNOUNCEMENTS)

MARGARET BRENNAN: We turn now to our panel for some analysis on the other big news of the week. Jamal Simmons and Amy Walter are joined by Ramesh Ponnuru, who is a senior editor at National Review and a columnist for Bloomberg Opinion, and Mark Landler covers the White House and foreign policy for The New York Times. Good to have you join us. Ramesh, may I ask you, you know, Amy brought up in the last segment this point about it not just being about the 2020 presidential race, it's also about some of these congressional seats. Senators, some of them we saw with this vote on the rebuke to the President, the accusation that maybe they were a little worried about their seats in 2020 and that may have swayed some Republicans to stick with the President instead of rebuking him. How big of a concern and a factor was that?

RAMESH PONNURU (Bloomberg Opinion/National Review/@RameshPonnuru): Well, I think it's very striking that of the twelve Republican senators who did not vote with the President, who voted to disapprove his declaration of a national emergency, only one of them is running in 2020. There was a risk on both sides, right, there's a general election risk because the emergency is unpopular and the wall is unpopular. But among Republicans, it's-- these things are very popular. And, obviously, I think a lot of Republicans showed that they were more concerned about winning their primaries than they were about the general election.

MARGARET BRENNAN: Who do you have in mind, is-- is it Thom Tillis of North Carolina who took a lot of heat for that eleventh-hour switch of his vote?

RAMESH PONNURU: Thom Tillis in North Carolina, Cory Gardner in Colorado, Joni Ernst in Iowa, all of them voted with the President and not with, you know, the-- the-- the twelve Republicans, like Mitt Romney and-- and Pat Toomey, Mike Lee and others who had these constitutional concerns about what the President is doing.

MARGARET BRENNAN: Mark, Mick Mulvaney was on this program and said that he-- he thinks the White House, you know, has nothing to worry about with this attempt to override the veto. But how was this received inside the White House? It was the President's first time to use the pen in this way?

MARK LANDLER (The New York Times/@MarkLandler): And it was also first time the President was rebuffed this way by Republicans, as Ramesh points out, that several of them didn't go the whole way, but the fact of the matter is after two years in which the Republicans have been just an absolute reliable sort of bastion for the President in Congress, I thought this was still symbolically important. And I'm sure that President Trump's argument, as well, I didn't pitch as hard as I could have. If I had really asked for the votes, I would have gotten them, but, nevertheless, they must be looking at this and thinking, do we have Mitch McConnell as reliably as we thought we did? And facing the prospect of more unpopular potentially policy decisions and debates down the road, is this the first in what will be a more independent Republican majority in the Senate, a majority that's going to make decisions not just blindly following the White House and President Trump?

MARGARET BRENNAN: Some might say that's wishful thinking?

AMY WALTER: Yeah.

MARK LANDLER: Indeed, indeed.

AMY WALTER: Yes.

MARK LANDLER: And-- and-- and I stimulate that we haven't seen it and we've had the same sort of discussion many, many times in the past, well, this will be the moment that they show their independence, and they continue not to do that. Having said that, you know, this was a somewhat different set of circumstances. It didn't play out quite as well as I think the White House hoped it would, and so that's got to be at least somewhat concerning for them.

MARGARET BRENNAN: Do you think this resonates with people at home or is it lost on them?

AMY WALTER: I do think it-- it doesn't really resonate unless the President wants it to resonate, in which case what he does very well is turns it back against congress. I think he loves the idea that, look, I told you people in Washington didn't understand us and our vision for how

we keep America safe. They are-- they are trapped in their old ways of thinking, I am here to break us out of this. And so it actually works for him, even when it's members of his own party. I think this is very beneficial to him. And I-- I do agree that with the question of whether this signals more dissension or whether it's just this was a really easy vote. The veto-- they're never going to have to vote on this again. They're not going to have-- it's going to die in the House--

MARGARET BRENNAN: Mm-Hm.

AMY WALTER: --most likely. They won't have to vote on this again, and then it's in the courts where, ultimately, it means that none of the discussion that we're having right now may ever have to turn into reality.

MARGARET BRENNAN: Ramesh, one of the few areas where we did see some-- some public criticism of the President from Republicans was on the foreign policy front. And, again, going into 2020, I guess there are some questions about, well, what does the President say he delivered on when it comes to North Korea? What does he say he delivered on with a promise to pull all troops out of Afghanistan? And we have some upcoming decisions on both of those things. How much of a political lens should we be putting on them?

RAMESH PONNURU: I tend to think that those sorts of foreign policy decisions are not all that politically significant in a presidential election unless something has gone very, very wrong, and in that case, people start holding politicians accountable and asking why things that they themselves as voters weren't paying attention to, weren't done. So I-- I think the stakes politically are low, even if the stakes for our long-term national security are kind of high. Right now I think the President can say that to his core voters, look, I have been trying to pull out of our commitments overseas, or at least downsize them in an intelligent way. And I think that that is going to be accepted as-- as fine. I don't think that there are a ton of Republican voters who are saying to themselves, you know, we need to be more involved in Syria. We need to be more involved in Iraq and Afghanistan, and so I think that he's going to be fine on this front.

MARGARET BRENNAN: Mark, we had the President go to the Pentagon on Friday for classified briefing. Do we know what threats he was actually getting briefed on?

MARK LANDLER: Well, we don't precisely know what threats he was getting briefed on. The assumption is clear he was probably being briefed on North Korea. He was probably being briefed on Syria, where after all he made this decision to leave some American troops behind after saying he was going to withdraw them, and probably also on Afghanistan. We are in the midst of this peace reconciliation process with the Taliban, and part of that process is setting a definite timeline for withdrawing the remaining troops there. So I am-- I'm sure some combination of those issues, plus Iran were probably all on the table at that point.

MARGARET BRENNAN: And there are about twelve thousand troops still in Afghanistan.

MARK LANDLER: That's right. And that con-- that conversation has become very complicated in the last couple of weeks because the Afghan government feels that we, the United States, has cut them out of the process. We're dealing directly with the Taliban, the Afghans don't have a seat at the table, and that's become very contentious just in the-- in the last week in Washington with a couple visiting Afghan officials raising some very serious criticisms of the administration.

MARGARET BRENNAN: Jamal, do you hear anything from this week with what's been described as sort of a blow symbolically to the President or the frustrations and trying to deliver on some of these foreign policy promises? Is there any rich territory for Democrats to message in mind?

JAMAL SIMMONS: I mean think of the Democratic political establishment or the Democratic left, the voters, people are thinking more about Russia and Russian influence than they are about some of the more fine points of foreign policy. They generally get the President is not really doing very well, and the candidates don't seem-- the Democratic candidates don't seem to be that-- that far apart on this. I think what people on the-- on the Democratic side are trying to do is alter an-- offer an alternate vision about what's important. So the reason the President and immigration focus is important is for-- for his base, is because it says to particularly white disaffected voters, I am the guy who's standing up against the brown people coming into the United States and trying to preserve the country for you. I think what the Democrats are trying to say is there's actually a bigger problem that happens. And so if you looked at what happened with the cheating scandal with the schools like there's this sort of mob of people who were at the top they've got all the goodies. So there's goodies mob, I'm not talking about Cee Lo, but there's like a goodies mob out there, right, that is dividing up all the opportunity among each other and those are the people that we all have to be worried about. How do we tilt the scales back in favor of working people, and somebody like Elizabeth Warren who talked about this idea of breaking up big tech companies is somebody who's driving this agenda on the left that says, maybe we've got to change the rules about how we deal with our economy and that's an alternate vision that I think Democrats are trying to establish and it might work.

AMY WALTER: And-- and, yet, that's also going back to the who-- who's the safe choice. And for Democrats, trying to balance these two very important segments of their electorate, the-- the ones who do see that the system is rigged, they're attracted to the Bernie Sanders message, also who's going to turn out that Obama coalition that Hillary did not--

MARGARET BRENNAN: Mm-Hm.

AMY WALTER: --younger voters, voters of color, but the newest coalition are those white suburban voters who came out, and guess who they voted for? They voted for Beto. That's how Beto came so close in Texas. It wasn't the rise of younger or Latino voters. It was white suburban voters who-- who came out and voted for Democrats in the House and for Beto. How do you keep those voters from either staying home or defecting back to-- to Donald Trump? If

you put a candidate, goes the-- the theory, someone like Elizabeth Warren, someone like Bernie Sanders, that's going to turn off those voters who-- who were willing to vote for us, say, Democrats in 2018.

MARGARET BRENNAN: And-- but, Jamal, Bernie Sanders is trying to woo black voters right now in South Carolina. He's trying to make up a difference I guess the lesson he learned.

JAMAL SIMMONS: He's trying. But, you know, there's a funny picture that was going around the internet yesterday of him at an African-American church in South Carolina, but everybody in the room was white, right? So-- so what happened was they-- they built a crowd, but it wasn't actually the crowd of the membership of that particular church. So he's got a-- he's got a little bit of a tougher road. I think of the two of them, Elizabeth Warren probably is the more-- is the one people may buy into a little bit more. But here's my real guess, is that somebody, whoever the Democratic nominee is will end up adopting a lot of the policy choices that Bernie and Elizabeth Warren put forward because that seems to be where the passion of the left is.

MARGARET BRENNAN: We will see. Thanks to all of you.

And we will be back in a moment with a look at a unique new class of congressional interns.

(ANNOUNCEMENTS)

MARGARET BRENNAN: Politics and football meet head-on this spring with an unusual class of interns on Capitol Hill. CBS News special correspondent James Brown reports.

(Begin VT)

MICHAEL THOMAS (New York Giants): --doing a research on a bill--

JAMES BROWN: Michael Thomas--

AUSTIN CARR (New Orleans Saints): Great to see you.

JAMES BROWN: --Austin Carr and Ryan Hunter are used to running, blocking, or catching for a living, but for the last couple of weeks, they have been running around the halls of Congress, tackling the big issues facing the country.

RYAN HUNTER (Kansas City Chiefs): I have been fortunate to sit in on meetings with foreign policy administrators from the Middle East, whether there would be constituents from the state of Missouri and the city of Kansas City, St. Louis.

JAMES BROWN: Ryan Hunter is an offensive lineman for the Kansas City Chiefs. He's interning for freshman Senator Josh Hawley of Missouri.

JOSH HAWLEY: This is fun because we're both new together. So Ryan's new. I'm new. We're kind of learning the ropes together. I think it's phenomenal that NFL players, you know, like Ryan who are very busy guys and have a career that they're pursuing want to be involved in their communities, want to be involved in service.

JAMES BROWN: Michael Thomas plays safety for the New York Giants. This is his second time working for Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, who represents his district in Houston, Texas.

SHEILA JACKSON LEE: What a better place to be, not necessarily only in my office, but in many offices where they can be change agents and translate that leadership on the field into making a difference.

MICHAEL THOMAS: After internment last year I said, I got to come back because I saw first-hand what she's doing and how much she's really on the ground, you know, like putting in the work. A lot of things that we were fighting for for criminal justice reform, bail reform, education, you know, re-entry with juvenile detentions and stuff like, that she's already had bills written. You know, they're on the floor. She's proposing these things. I'm like, okay, this is how we can take that next step.

JAMES BROWN: And you are firmly convinced that Capitol Hill, this arena, this venue, if you will, can affect the kind of meaningful changes that you and others who have the same feeling--

MICHAEL THOMAS: Absolutely.

JAMES BROWN: --can bring about?

MICHAEL THOMAS: Absolutely. I mean it's going to take, you know, it's going to take time. You can't-- nothing happens overnight. I can see how other people can say, man, like, they're slow, we need-- we need something now. We need to do something now. And I get that passion. I feel it.

JAMES BROWN: Austin Carr is a wide receiver for the New Orleans Saints. He is pro-life and interested in some libertarian ideas, which is why he is interning for Kentucky Senator Rand Paul.

AUSTIN CARR: I'm seeing how hard they work and in particular Senator Rand Paul, how often he's running to and fro to different meetings, different committees, meeting with constituents.

JAMES BROWN: What have you seen in this young man, Senator?

RAND PAUL: We're-- we're glad to have him here, and I think it's good to see another side of our athletes.

JAMES BROWN: According to the NFLPA, the average NFL career lasts just under four years. In 2014 the union started an externship program to prepare players for life after the NFL. Since then one hundred and eighty-three players have had on-the-job training in a variety of fields. Michael Thomas is a member of the union's executive board, and he sees this as an opportunity to speak for his community. Thomas was one of the players who protested police brutality by kneeling during the national anthem.

MICHAEL THOMAS: Me being here, being an inside intern, I see the steps that needs to be take-- that need to be taken. I'm willing to put in the work. I'm willing to advocate for it. I'm willing to help out Congresswoman Jackson Lee any way I can using my voice and my platform, same way I did it on the football field in taking a knee.

JAMES BROWN: Austin Carr met with the attorney general of Louisiana to talk about the opioid crisis.

AUSTIN CARR: Nationwide, U.S. consumes eighty percent of opioids in the world, right?

JAMES BROWN: Ryan Hunter learned more about brain injuries after meeting with the Society for Neuroscience.

RYAN HUNTER: I'd rather be here than be in the Bahamas, because I'm learning so much for the future that this-- this experience on its own beats, you know, having an umbrella drink on the beach.

JAMES BROWN: These pro athletes came to Washington to learn from political leaders, but their mentors seem to learn from them, as well.

RAND PAUL: No, I'm glad to see that Austin, you know, believes strongly in his faith and that it sounds like he wants to be part of trying to make things better in the country, but also be an example for, you know, kids out there that look up to our-- our stars.

JOSH HAWLEY: Having players say, I want to be involved, I want to serve, I want to see it from the inside, I want to do something about that, that's awesome, we need more of that. And I think Ryan is a great example.

SHEILA JACKSON LEE: I hope he will be able to be here when we are seeing these bills pass out of the House and the Senate where we have changed the criminal justice system. Wouldn't that be great? That's my heart and passion. And I hope he will be part of it.

MICHAEL THOMAS: Absolutely.

(End VT)

MARGARET BRENNAN: And we'll be right back.

(ANNOUNCEMENTS)

MARGARET BRENNAN: That's it for us today. Thank you for watching. Until next week for FACE THE NATION, I'm Margaret Brennan.

Press Contact:

Michele Exner

ExnerM@cbsnews.com

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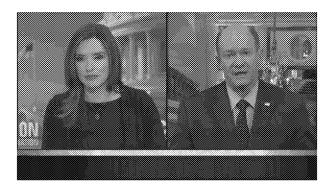
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"FACE THE NATION" INTERVIEW WITH SENATOR CHRIS COONS (D-DE)

CBS News' Face the Nation moderator Margaret Brennan spoke with Senator Chris Coons from the 2019 Munich Security Conference yesterday afternoon. The interview is set to air on this morning's edition of FACE THE NATION (10:30AM, ET). There are no embargo restrictions. Please credit CBS News Face the Nation for any portion used of the interview.

On former acting FBI director Andrew McCabe's recent comments regarding the 25th amendment, Coons says, "It is alarming that there were apparently folks at the highest levels of our government considering whether or not our president is unfit to serve."

While he does not think it rises to the level of "deep state conspiracy" or "administrative coup" as it was described by his colleague Senator Graham, Coons says this recent allegation by McCabe "does deserve scrutiny"

MARGARET BRENNAN: We want to turn now to another attendee at the Munich Security Conference, Delaware Democrat Chris Coons. You now have heard the former acting FBI director come public after leaving office about what he saw as grounds for discussion of the 25th

Amendment. What do you think of making those details public now?

SENATOR CHRIS COONS: ... But what is striking to me about the "60 Minutes" reporting about the conversations that are alleged to have happened at the highest levels of our law enforcement community is that folks who were career professionals were troubled enough by what they saw in terms of President Trump's actions with regard to Russia, that they felt compelled to open a counterintelligence investigation. I think that should give all of us pause.

. . .

MARGARET BRENNAN: From what you heard from McCabe himself, the pattern he was describing, is that an appropriate response, or an appropriate potential use of the 25th Amendment?

SEN. COONS: Well I can't speak to that having not heard the entire interview. It is alarming that there were apparently folks at the highest levels of our government considering whether or not our president is unfit to serve. I don't think that this frankly rises to the level of some deep state conspiracy or a serious attempt at what Senator Graham called an administrative coup. I suspect that once this is fully discussed it'll be clearer that this was a brief or passing conversation that's been taken out of context. But it does deserve scrutiny.

On President Trump declaring a national emergency, Coons says Congress "should take action to disapprove of this excessive use of executive power" ... "I do think that we should not set the terrible precedent of letting a president declare a national emergency simply as a way of getting around the congressional appropriations process."

MARGARET BRENNAN: Do you think there should be a joint resolution, an attempt by Congress to stop the president from-from going forward with this emergency declaration?

SEN. COONS: Well given that what President Trump is trying to do-- to build a big wall between the United States and Mexico to meet a campaign promise, something that Congress considered and rejected, that the president wasn't able to secure over two years when Republicans controlled the Congress. I do think Margaret we should take action to disapprove of this excessive use of executive power and make it clear that the article one branch, th-the Congress is going to jealously defend our right to be the body that decides on federal spending and not let the president use this extreme measure as an end around our appropriations process.

MARGARET BRENNAN: If you do see a Democratic president in that office, would you share that concern? Do you think Congress now needs to put some restrictions on the executive's ability to declare a national emergency?

SEN. COONS: I do think that we should not set the terrible precedent of letting a president declare a national emergency simply as a way of getting around the congressional appropriations process. Presidents do have emergency powers. They can declare national emergencies. But if you look back at the history of that over the last four decades, they've overwhelmingly been done in the face of legitimate national security threats where there was no time or no other means of addressing them.

Senator Coons on what he is hearing at the Munich Security Conference with regard to President Trump's decision to withdraw U.S. forces from Syria: It has "really unsettled our core allies because he did so without consulting" with them

Coons joins Graham in "congratulating the president and our armed forces in ending the ISIS caliphate," but says withdrawing every U.S. troop from Syria would be "disastrous"

On the size of the U.S. force that should remain on the ground in Syria, Coons suggests "at most a few hundred to help secure both the Al Tanf base that is blocking Iran from having a highway right into and across Syria and to secure a buffer zone between our Kurdish partners

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SENATOR CHRIS COONS: ... But what's striking to me about this conference— and frankly around the world is the way in which President Trump's abrupt decision to withdraw from Syria has really unsettled our core allies because he did so without consulting with any of our allies. A candidate Donald Trump ran as someone who would be unconventional, who would break the mold and be unpredictable, and he has certainly over performed in that category.

MARGARET BRENNAN: I want to ask you about a foreign policy issue as well, and you brought it up at the beginning of our conversation, and that's Syria. Senator Graham just made a pitch to our allies to commit boots, troops to Syria, and promised that U.S. troops would stay alongside them. What do you make of that pitch?

SEN. COONS: Well this is where Senator Graham and I agree. And the delegation in the meetings that I've been in has been speaking up with one voice, saying that an abrupt and total withdrawal of all American forces from Syria would have a terrible consequence of handing our allies in the fight against ISIS-- the Kurds-- over either to Iran or to the Turks, and that we should be working, in partnership with our allies, to make sure that we don't allow ISIS to reemerge and that we don't allow Iran and Russia to dominate Syria. I'll- I'll join Senator Graham in congratulating the president and our armed forces in ending the ISIS caliphate, but I think for us to pull all of our forces, literally every American soldier out of Syria, would be a disastrous--

MARGARET BRENNAN: So how many should stay?

SEN. COONS: -- and it would have consequences not just for Syria's security but for our allies.

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SENATOR CHRIS COONS: Well Margaret as you heard from Senator Graham this will almost certainly be taken up by the Senate Judiciary Committee. But what's striking to me about this conference—and frankly around the world is the way in which President Trump's abrupt decision to withdraw from Syria has really unsettled our core allies because he did so without consulting with any of our allies. A candidate Donald Trump ran as someone who would be unconventional, who would break the mold and be unpredictable, and he has certainly over performed in that category. But what is striking to me about the "60 Minutes" reporting about the conversations that are alleged to have happened at the highest levels of our law enforcement community is that folks who were career professionals were troubled enough by what they saw in terms of President Trump's actions with regard to Russia, that they felt compelled to open a counterintelligence investigation. I think that should give all of us pause.

MARGARET BRENNAN: McCabe himself has been questioned in terms of his own personal behavior. He was fired after an IG investigation found that he lied or lacked candor four times under oath. So do you question the credibility of his claims?

SEN. COONS: Look the most important thing in my mind is that Robert Mueller be able to

complete his investigation without interference. If we also need to have some sunshine, some disinfectant here, about everything that led to the beginning and the pursuit of that investigation, that strikes me as appropriate.

MARGARET BRENNAN: So to be clear, when your colleague Senator Graham was talking about wanting to, on the Judiciary Committee, investigate things like abuse of- of foreign surveillance and the grounds under which warrants were obtained, do you support all of that?

SEN. COONS: My hope is that Chairman Graham will be open to calling a number of witnesses who based on previous testimony also need to come in front of the Senate Judiciary Committee. We should not be pursuing just one theory or one line of investigation here. We should be looking at all the matters that are appropriate for oversight by the Senate Judiciary Committee.

MARGARET BRENNAN: From what you heard from McCabe himself, the pattern he was describing, is that an appropriate response, or an appropriate potential use of the 25th Amendment?

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MARGARET BRENNAN: All right. Senator Coons, thank you for joining us.

SEN. COONS: Thank you, Margaret.

PRESS CONTACT: Michele Exner

ExnerM@cbsnews.com

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GRAHAM CALLS FORMER ACTING FBI DIRECTOR ANDREW MCCABE'S CHARGE THAT DEPUTY AG ROSENSTEIN 'RAISED THE ISSUE' OF THE 25th AMENDMENT "BEYOND STUNNING" and says he will subpoena McCabe and Rosenstein if necessary to testify before the Judiciary Committee and "find out, through questioning, who's telling the truth"

"There's an allegation by the acting FBI director at the time that the deputy attorney general was basically trying to do an administrative coup, take the president down to the twenty fifth amendment process. The deputy attorney general denies it. I promise your viewers the following, that we will have a hearing about who's telling the truth."

He adds: "I think everybody in the country needs to know if it happened. It's stunning to me that one of the chief law enforcement officers of the land-- the acting head of the FBI-would go on national television and say, oh by the way I remember a conversation with the deputy attorney general about trying to find if we could replace the president under the 25th Amendment."

"[McCabe] went on national television and he made an accusation that floors me... we're going to find out what happened here and the only way I know to find out is to call the people in under oath and find out, through questioning, who's telling the truth because the underlying accusation is beyond stunning."

MARGARET BRENNAN: Good morning and welcome to FACE THE NATION. We have a lot to get to today and we're going to begin with Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Lindsey Graham. He joins us from Germany where he is attending the Munich Security Conference. Sir I want to get right to this conversation my colleague Scott Pelley had on "60 Minutes" with former acting FBI Director Andrew McCabe where he described a conversation about the 25th Amendment—the mechanism through which to push the president out of office—And he said it was brought up to him by the Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein.

MCCABE: DISCUSSION OF THE 25TH AMENDMENT WAS WAS, WAS SIMPLY ROD RAISED THE ISSUE AND DISCUSSED IT WITH ME IN THE CONTEXT OF THINKING ABOUT HOW MANY OTHER CABINET OFFICIALS MIGHT SUPPORT SUCH AN EFFORT.

PELLEY: ROSENSTEIN WAS ACTUALLY OPENLY TALKING ABOUT WHETHER THERE WAS A MAJORITY OF THE CABINET WHO WOULD VOTE TO REMOVE THE

PRESIDENT.

MCCABE: THAT'S CORRECT. COUNTING VOTES OR POSSIBLE VOTES.

PELLEY: WHAT SEEMED TO BE COURSING THROUGH THE MIND OF THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL WAS GETTING RID OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED

STATES.

MCCABE: WELL--

PELLEY: --ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.

MCCABE: I CAN'T CONFIRM THAT. BUT WHAT I CAN SAY IS THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL WAS DEFINITELY VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE PRESIDENT, ABOUT HIS CAPACITY AND ABOUT HIS INTENT AT THAT POINT IN TIME.

PELLEY: HOW DID HE BRING UP THE IDEA OF THE 25TH AMENDMENT TO YOU? MCCABE: HONESTLY I DON'T REMEMBER. HE-- IT WAS JUST ANOTHER KIND OF TOPIC THAT HE JUMPED TO IN THE MIDST OF- OF- OF A WIDE RANGING CONVERSATION.

PELLEY: SERIOUSLY? (LAUGH) JUST--

MCCABE: --YEAH--

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MCCABE: YEAH.

MARGARET BRENNAN: Senator that's a tremendous allegation to make. Have you ever asked Rod Rosenstein if in fact that conversation happened?

SENATOR LINDSEY GRAHAM: While he's publicly denied it, but, the whole point of Congress existing is to provide oversight of the executive branch. So through good reporting by "60 Minutes," there's an allegation by the acting FBI director at the time that the deputy attorney general was basically trying to do an administrative coup, take the president down to the twenty fifth amendment process. The deputy attorney general denies it. So I promise your viewers the following; that we will have a hearing about who's telling the truth, what actually happened. Mr. McCabe, you remember, was dismissed from the FBI for leaking information to the press. So you've got to remember the source here.

MARGARET BRENNAN: There has been some parsing though of whether these were extended discussions versus conversations about the 25th Amendment. Do you know whether those conversations have taken place?

SEN. GRAHAM: No but I think everybody in the country needs to know if it happened. It's stunning to me that one of the chief law enforcement officers of the land- the acting head of the FBI- would go on national television and say, oh by the way I remember a conversation with the deputy attorney general about trying to find if we could replace the president under the 25th Amendment. We're a democracy. People enforce the law- can't take it into their own hands. And was this an attempted bureaucratic coup? I don't know. I don't know who's telling the truth. I know Rosenstein vehemently denied it but we're going to get to the bottom of it. I do know there was a lot of monkey business about FISA warrants being issued against Carter Page, about dossiers coming from Russia that were unverified. Mr. Mueller is going to look at the Trump campaign as he should to see if they violated any laws during the 2016 election. And I'm going to do everything I can to get to the bottom of the Department of Justice FBI behavior toward President Trump and his campaign.

MARGARET BRENNAN: But- but by even framing it as you just did there Senator, are you concerned that by investigating the investigators you are adding to some damage of the credibility of the FBI?

SEN. GRAHAM: Quite the opposite. If it happened we need to clean it up. The FBI has gotten off track in the past. It's one of the greatest organizations in the world. The Hoover years have proven to be pretty dark periods for the FBI. The latter part of the Hoover days where politicians were being blackmailed. There is no organization beyond scrutiny. There is no organization that can't withstand scrutiny. And the FBI will come out stronger. But we've got to get to the bottom of it. What are people to think after they watch "60 Minutes" when they hear this accusation by the acting deputy- acting FBI director that the deputy attorney general encouraged him to try to find ways to count votes to replace the president? That can't go unaddressed. And it will be

addressed. That's what oversight is all about.

MARGARET BRENNAN: Will you subpoena McCabe and Rosenstein to appear?

SEN. GRAHAM: How can I not, if that's what it takes? I mean you're doing your job. The first amendment allows you to ask questions of the most powerful people in the country. I know he's selling a book, and we need to take with a grain of salt maybe what Mr. McCabe is telling us. But he went on national television and he made an accusation that floors me. You know, I can imagine if the shoe were on the other foot, this would- if we were talking about getting rid of President Clinton, it'd be front page news all over the world. Well we're going to find out what happened here and the only way I know to find out is to call the people in under oath and find out, through questioning, who's telling the truth because the underlying accusation is beyond stunning.

On his proposal that other countries send troops to help the U.S. in Syria, Graham says that Europeans are willing to contribute and that we need "just a fraction – a couple hundred – compared to 2,700," of U.S. troops to remain in Syria, that "would be enough to get Europeans to contribute to the stabilizing force to make sure ISIS doesn't come back like it did in Iraq... I've never felt better about the outcome in Syria with a small contingent of Americans."

He adds: "Congratulations Mr. President. The job is not yet done but we've done a hell of a job destroying the caliphate."

MARGARET BRENNAN: --there at Munich for foreign troops to be committed to Syria alongside American forces. How many U.S. forces are needed to stay there and has President Trump actually made that commitment to you?

SEN. GRAHAM: Well that's- thank you for asking Margaret. The Islamic State in Iraq and Syria has been destroyed. It has been defeated. All the work is not yet done. Remnants of ISIS are lethal. We need a follow own presence post caliphate destruction. The good news we can do this with a fraction of American forces we've had in Syria in the past. The real good news is Europeans are willing to contribute because their cities have been attacked from Syria. The caliphate in Syria--

MARGARET BRENNAN: How many U.S. troops?

SEN. GRAHAM:--has caused thousands of deaths inside of Europe. I think just a fraction, a couple of hundred, compared to twenty seven hundred would be enough to get Europeans to contribute to the stabilizing force to make sure ISIS doesn't come back like it did in Iraq, to make sure that Turkey and the Kurds don't go to war, to keep them apart, and to make sure Iran doesn't come in and take over when we leave. So I've never felt better about the outcome in Syria with a small contingent of Americans. A lot of Europeans will come in and help fill in the gap, a very small down payment to secure ISIS never comes back. We've gone from thousands of troops in Iraq and Syria down now to a couple of hundred in Syria. Congratulations, Mr. President. The job is not yet done but we've done a hell of a job destroying the caliphate.

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MARGARET BRENNAN: I want to play another clip from that interview for you.

SCOTT PELLEY: WHAT WAS IT SPECIFICALLY THAT CAUSED YOU TO LAUNCH THE COUNTERINTELLIGENCE INVESTIGATION?

ANDREW MCCABE: IT'S MANY OF THOSE SAME CONCERNS THAT CAUSED US TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT A NATIONAL SECURITY THREAT. AND THE IDEA IS IF THE PRESIDENT COMMITTED OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE, FIRED THE DIRECTOR OF THE- OF THE FBI TO NEGATIVELY IMPACT, OR TO SHUT DOWN OUR INVESTIGATION OF RUSSIA'S MALIGN ACTIVITY, AND POSSIBLY IN SUPPORT OF HIS CAMPAIGN, AS A COUNTERINTELLIGENCE INVESTIGATOR YOU HAVE TO ASK YOURSELF, WHY WOULD A PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES DO THAT? SO ALL THOSE SAME SORTS OF FACTS CAUSE US TO WONDER, IS THERE AN INAPPROPRIATE RELATIONSHIP, A CONNECTION BETWEEN THIS PRESIDENT AND OUR MOST FEARSOME ENEMY, THE GOVERNMENT OF RUSSIA?

MARGARET BRENNAN: Senator, you voiced support for the Muller probe in the past. Listening to—

SEN. GRAHAM: Right.

MARGARET BRENNAN: What McCabe just described there- a troubling pattern of behavior that he as a- a lifetime investigator saw as a troubling fact pattern, led him to open a counterintelligence investigation into the president of the United States. Can you understand why he came to that conclusion?

SEN. GRAHAM: I can understand that the American people will get an answer to the question for Mr. Mueller. What I can't understand is why Mr. McCabe would meet with Page and Strzok to discuss their hatred for president- candidate Trump, talking about taking an insurance policy out in case the election went different than they want. So Mueller will tell us about what Trump did or didn't do. I'm going to tell the country about McCabe and the people at the Department of Justice and how they behaved. Did they take the law into their own hands? Did they abuse the FISA warrant process because they had a political agenda? Did their hatred of Trump go so far, that they abandoned their role of being law enforcement agents and become advocates for a political cause? We're going to get to the bottom of that.

MARGARET BRENNAN: But you recognize there that McCabe is laying out the- the grounds of what he saw as an obstruction of justice attempt.

SEN. GRAHAM: Mr. Mueller will look at that but I think McCabe, Strzok and Page had a political bias, a political agenda. And I find it odd that the dossier that we use to get the warrant against Carter Page, prepared by a foreign agent, paid for by the Democratic Party that they knew to be unreliable, was used on four separate occasions to get a warrant. And I want to know why Comey told the president, "Here's the dossier. We've got it. We can't verify any of it. We want you to know about it." And that same document was used by the FBI and the Department of Justice under oath to tell the court, "This is reliable information, gives us a warrant based on

this document. I hope your viewers understand that the rule of law works both ways. Somebody has got to watch those who watch us and I intend to watch what McCabe and- and his crowd did during the 2016 election.

MARGARET BRENNAN: The president just declared a national emergency in regard to getting the funds for his border wall. In terms of getting those funds though through this emergency action and there's about three point six billion of it that could come from military construction efforts, including construction of a middle school in Kentucky, housing for military families, improvements for bases like Camp Pendleton and Hanscom Air Force Base. Aren't you concerned that some of these projects that were part of legislation that you helped approve and Congress are now going to possibly be cut out?

SEN. GRAHAM: Well the president will have to make a decision where to get the money. Let's just say for a moment that he took some money out of the military construction budget. I would say it's better for the middle school kids in Kentucky to have a secure border. We'll get them the school they need. But right now we've got a national emergency on our hands. Opioid addiction is going through the roof in this country. Thousands of Americans died last year and dying this year because we can't control the flow of drugs into this country and all of his coming across the border--

MARGARET BRENNAN: Through ports of entry according to the--

SEN. GRAHAM: So the dangers presented by a broken border to me.

MARGARET BRENNAN: --to Customs and Border patrol though. But--

SEN. GRAHAM: Both. It's both. It's not just one. For every one we get, God knows how much we miss.

MARGARET BRENNAN: Do- don't you think Congress has ceded too much power to the executive branch? Do you think that you need to more sharply define what constitutes a national emergency so that future presidents can't interpret it as they like?

SEN. GRAHAM: Good question. I think that every member of Congress has watched three presidents send troops to the border. Bush, Obama, now Trump. Not one of us have complained about deploying forces to the border to secure the border. It's pretty hard for me to understand the legal difference between sending troops and having them build a barrier. What disappoints me is on President Obama's watch as a Republican, I voted for a 44 billion dollar border security package, 9 billion of which included barriers. 2006 all of us voted for the Secure Fre-Fence Act. And we're talking about steel barriers not a concrete wall. And unfortunately when it comes to Trump, the Congress is locked down and will not give him what we've given past presidents. So unfortunately, he's got to do it on his own and I support his decision to go that route.

MARGARET BRENNAN: Well perhaps in the future we can talk about sharpening what constitutes an emergency. But before I let you go, you made a pitch from the stage--

SEN. GRAHAM: Right.

MARGARET BRENNAN: --there at Munich for foreign troops to be committed to Syria alongside American forces. How many U.S. forces are needed to stay there and has President Trump actually made that commitment to you?

SEN. GRAHAM: Well that's- thank you for asking Margaret. The Islamic State in Iraq and Syria has been destroyed. It has been defeated. All the work is not yet done. Remnants of ISIS are lethal. We need a follow own presence post caliphate destruction. The good news we can do this with a fraction of American forces we've had in Syria in the past. The real good news is Europeans are willing to contribute because their cities have been attacked from Syria. The caliphate in Syria--

MARGARET BRENNAN: How many U.S. troops?

SEN. GRAHAM:--has caused thousands of deaths inside of Europe. I think just a fraction, a couple of hundred, compared to twenty seven hundred would be enough to get Europeans to contribute to the stabilizing force to make sure ISIS doesn't come back like it did in Iraq, to make sure that Turkey and the Kurds don't go to war, to keep them apart, and to make sure Iran doesn't come in and take over when we leave. So I've never felt better about the outcome in Syria with a small contingent of Americans. A lot of Europeans will come in and help fill in the gap, a very small down payment to secure ISIS never comes back. We've gone from thousands of troops in Iraq and Syria down now to a couple of hundred in Syria. Congratulations, Mr. President. The job is not yet done but we've done a hell of a job destroying the caliphate.

MARGARET BRENNAN: Senator Graham, thank you.

PRESS CONTACT: Michele Exner

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MORNINGMEDIA

02/15/2019 05:31 AM EDT

By MICHAEL CALDERONE (mcalderone@politico.com: @mlcalderone)



Fox News host Sean Hannity interviews President Donald Trump in Las Vegas on Sept. 20, 2018. | Ethan Miller/Getty Images

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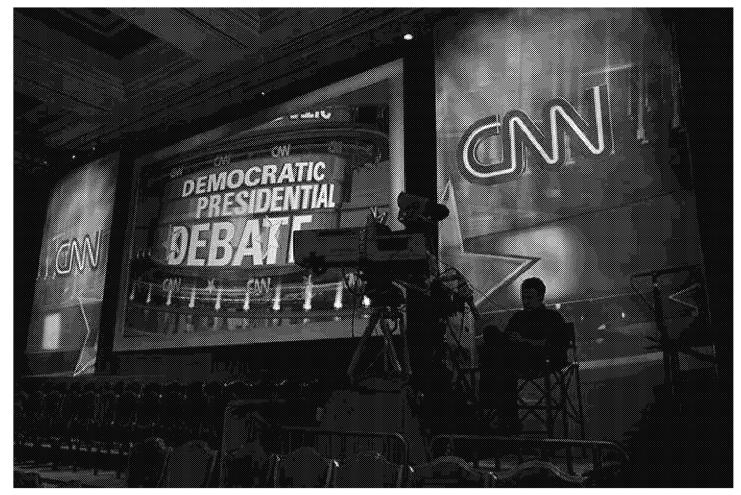
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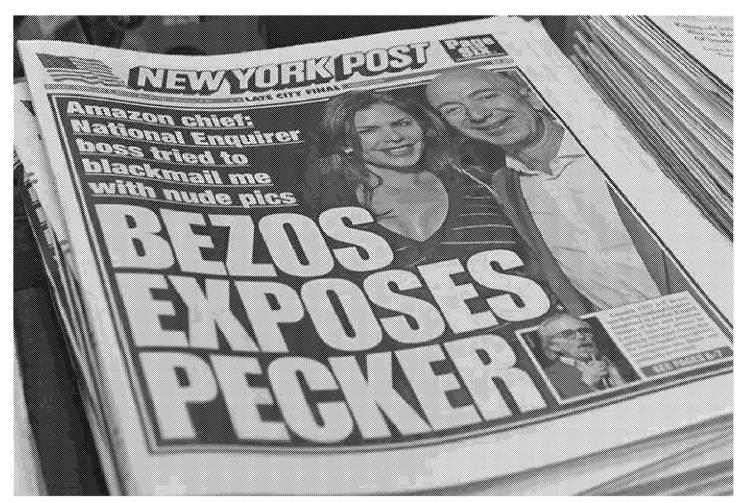


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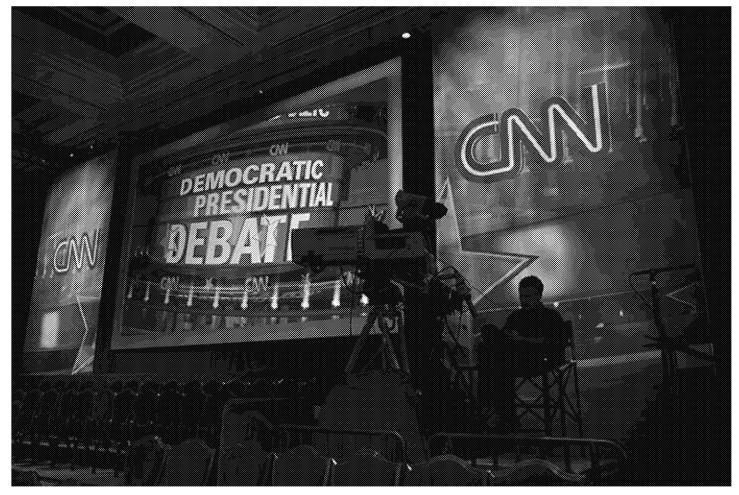
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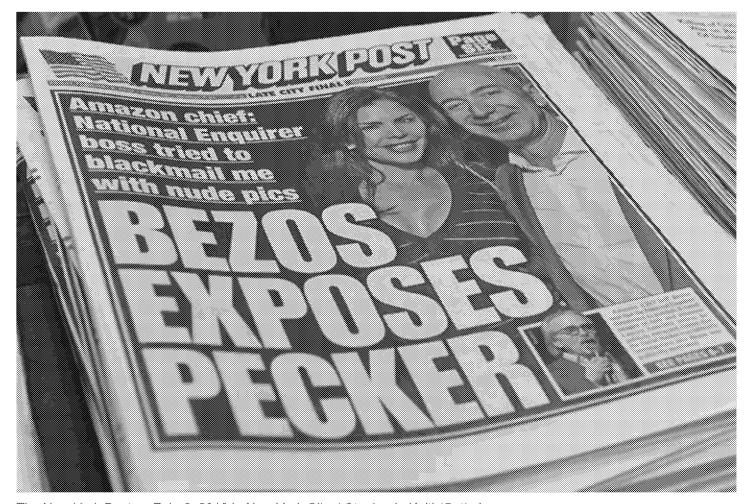


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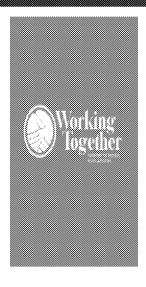
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Tips/Feedback

HHS Secretary Azar is courting Capitol Hill on drug prices



BY PAIGE WINFIELD CUNNINGHAM with Paulina Firozi

THE PROGNOSIS



Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar speaks during a Senate Finance Committee hearing on Capitol Hill. (Jacquelyn Martin/AP)

Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar met this week with key Capitol Hill lawmakers to discuss combating high drug costs, even as the pharmaceutical industry ramped up its complaints about his surprisingly bold effort to take on the problem through the Medicare program.

Azar trekked up to the Hill on Tuesday and Wednesday to meet with many of the House and Senate lawmakers who will drive Congress's approach to prescription drug spending over the next two years. His promised experiment with pegging certain Medicare payments to an international index doesn't need congressional approval, but it could be harder for him to move ahead with the effort if Republicans start airing skepticism about it. And Azar would need Congress's help for some of the other ideas contained in President Trump's drug-pricing blueprint.

So far, Republicans are mostly holding their fire on the secretary's Medicare Part B effort (which we explain here), although some privately think Azar is going too far.

Lawmakers said they discussed the pilot program with Azar, along with talking generally about other problems like high drug list prices and the opaque system of drug rebates.

"There were not conclusions drawn," Senate Finance Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-lowa) told reporters yesterday. "It was in no way confrontational, just discussion."

Azar met Wednesday morning with Senate Finance Committee Republicans, along with Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.), who heads up the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee. A day earlier, he visited Sen. John Cornyn (R-Tex.) and House Oversight Committee Chairman Elijah Cummings (D-Md.).





Senator @johnCornyn and I had a great meeting, and I look forward to working together as we continue to implement @POTUS's blueprint to bring down drug prices.

Senator John Cornyn 🔷 @ John Cornyn

Yesterday I met with U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar to discuss ways to reform the American health care system to lower costs for Texans and all Americans



◯ 46 11:57 AM - Jan 16, 2019

1

Cummings told me he didn't want to get "too optimistic." But the Democrat said he felt Azar was "very sincere" in his desire to stop the massive drug prices hikes of recent years.

"I got the impression that he sincerely wants — as I view it — the pharmaceutical companies to make a reasonable profit but not by raising drug prices by 10, 15 times almost overnight," said Cummings, who made his own set of drug-pricing recommendations last week. "I think they're willing to at least sit down and have a real exchange."

HHS spokeswoman Caitlin Oakley, who confirmed the meetings took place, said discussions involved many aspects of the drug-pricing blueprint released by Trump in the spring. That includes "increasing negotiation in Part D, reforming Part B so that American patients pay similar prices to what Europeans pay, and addressing the perverse incentives behind rebates and rising list prices."

"Secretary Azar and the Trump Administration are committed to working across the aisle and have made it clear that all options that preserve drug safety and keep patients at the center are on the table," Oakley said.



Senate Finance Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-lowa). (Zach Gibson/Getty Images)

But the Pharmaceutical Researchers and Manufacturers of America is making clear it wants the Part B experiment off the table, period. Its head honchos gathered reporters Wednesday morning to lay out the arguments for why the experiment would

harm patients' access to lifesaving medicines and hurt research-and-develop efforts in the United States.

"We think this model goes way too far," said Lori Reilly, executive vice president for policy, research and membership at PhRMA. "In our opinion, it's not a true test when you're talking about a national scale overhaul of Medicare policy."

Under the five-year experiment, which HHS has yet to formally propose, half of all payments for doctor-administered drugs would be tied to a new international index reflecting prices in 16 other countries. The agency has argued the U.S. government pays far more for these drugs than in other countries, advertising the new index as a way to put things on a more equal footing.

Drugmakers who provide cancer therapies would be especially affected, as their medications are typically paid for under the Part B program. Part B spending has grown dramatically in recent years, as rapid oncological advancements have produces more effective — but also more expensive — treatments for cancer patients.

But PhRMA is trying to make the case these patients would be harmed under the proposed cuts, pointing to other countries with socialized medicine. Residents of Greece, the Czech Republic and Japan, for example, have access to fewer new cancer medications and must wait longer before they can get the newest treatments, the group argues.

"It is very clear in our mind patient access could be harmed," Reilly said. "We've seen these types of systems play out outside the U.S., and in virtually all those systems access to treatment is delayed and sometimes completely withhold from patients."

PhRMA officials stressed that Azar himself has derided health-care systems in other countries. Azar told the Senate HELP panel in June: "God help you if you get cancer in the United Kingdom."

"You don't have choice or access to the most modern oncology and cancer therapies," Azar said at the time. "You'll be coming to America to get your treatment if you have the money to be able to get here."

Yet critics note that PhRMA has backed very few specific ideas to directly rein in drug prices, which are higher in the United States than anywhere else. PhRMA chief executive Steve Ubl insisted his members want to be "part of the solution."

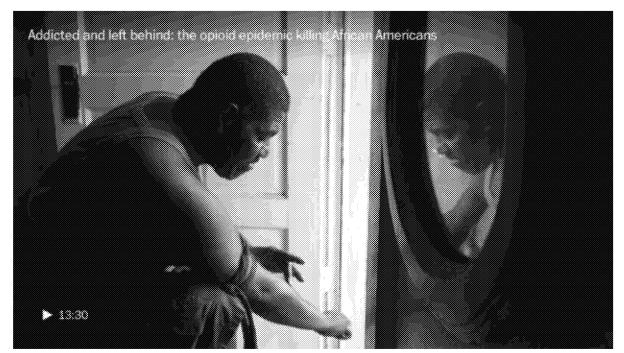
"I want to reiterate that our members want to be part of the solution; we don't believe in the status quo, we don't defend the status quo," Ubl said. "We know the system needs to change in important ways."

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AHH, OOF, OUGH



Addicted and left behind: the opioid epidemic killing African Americans

AHH: Federal officials have launched an audit of how the D.C. government handled the millions of dollars in grant funding it was awarded to tackle the opioid crisis, our Post colleague Peter Jamison reports. Officials from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration notified the District of the audit on Jan. 9, according to documents obtained by The Post, and have started visiting D.C. government offices and at least one treatment provider that received funding.

"The audit appears to focus on grant money that was not spent as intended to combat the opioid epidemic and on federally funded programs that D.C. government officials failed to implement," Peter writes. "In a letter notifying the city of the audit, Jack Goldberg, director of SAMHSA's Office of Financial Advisory Services, said the agency would be scrutinizing both the management of those funds and the city's plans for using an additional \$21 million in federal grant money it expects to receive this year for proposed opioid programs."

Theaudit follows a report from Peter in December on how the District has fallen short in its response to the opioid crisis, failing to properly spend grant funding dedicated to the crisis even as there was a surge in fatal heroin overdoses, especially in black neighborhoods.

D.C. Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services Wayne Turnage confirmed the audit and said in a statement: "In confronting this epidemic, we obviously value our partnership with SAMHSA and welcome the review and feedback as we continue to seek opportunities to better leverage federal grants and effectively serve District residents."



Bottles of the prescription painkiller OxyContin, made by Purdue Pharma, sit on a shelf at a pharmacy in Provo, Utah. (George Frey/Reuters)

OOF: Purdue Pharma sought to partner with universities and hospitals to expand its sales of opioids. That's one of several revelations in a trove of court documents released this week in a Massachusetts suit against the drug company.

Purdue Pharma struck a deal with Massachusetts General Hospital in the early 2000s to start a pain program, Stat's Andrew Joseph writes. And Dr. Jane Ballantyne, who was director of the Pain Center at the hospital, thought it seemed like a good idea and a chance for the hospital and the drug company to work together on easing patient pain.

"Purdue instead saw the sponsorship of a pain program at Mass. General as a way to gain sway at one of the most influential academic medical centers in the country and boost its revenues — by encouraging doctors to prescribe OxyContin and Purdue's other opioids to more patients at higher doses and for longer periods of time — according to a court document made public Tuesday," Andrew writes.

After Ballantyne left the hospital in 2008, Purdue renewed its sponsorship, "paying the hospital \$3 million for the Massachusetts General Hospital Purdue Pharma Pain Program and — as a result — access to prescribers, ties to medical students and physician

trainees, and political capital at a time when scrutiny of opioid manufacturers was increasing."



Seema Verma, administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. (AP Photo/Julio Cortez)

OUCH: Hospitals are criticizing a reported plan the Trump administration is considering to overhaul Medicaid by giving states block grants for the program, Modern Healthcare's Robert King reports.

The plan would mean a federal spending caps for Medicaid, which could mean states would have to slash Medicaid rolls or cut payments to some hospitals and nursing homes to lower spending. "Chip Kahn, CEO of the Federation of American Hospitals, told Modern Healthcare that he is concerned about how block grants will affect access to coverage and questioned whether the CMS can legally allow these waivers," Robert writes.

Ashley Thompson, senior vice president of public policy analysis at the American Hospital Association, also expressed concern about the impact on coverage: "We have long voiced concerns about how block granting Medicaid could ultimately result in losses of coverage and negatively impact access to quality care," she told Robert.

Politico's Rachana Pradhan and Dan Diamond first reported the administration is drawing up plans on the potential change.

HEALTH ON THE HILL



Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-Calif.) testifies before the House Financial Services Committee in 2010. (Charles Dharapak/AP)

—Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-Calif.), the new chair of the House Energy and Commerce subcommittee on Health, said drug pricing is a priority but that members needed to first understand the opaque and confusing process.

"I don't think anyone can sit down and say, off the top of their head, this is the way it's done," she told reporters. "In many ways. it's a jaw-dropper."

Eshoo continued: "I'd like to start out that way, and I think that when you get to examine each layer that you can't help but think, 'Why does it work this way? What's the benefit of it? Who does this benefit? Does the patient, the consumer, win in this?' I think that's the way I want to start."

She said it was critical to "examine" the issue before moving forward with any specific legislation. "If you don't understand the construct, how do you know that 'I'm putting this bill in, it's going to fix something."

—Eshoo also said she wants to hold a hearing to make sense of the many "Medicare-for-all" proposals that have been introduced.

"There are several Medicare-for-all bills that are out there, but they all have a different interpretation," the California Democrat told reporters. "I think that it would be interesting to have the authors of these bills come and testify and explain what their bill does and have the members ask them questions."

She said lawmakers could get answers on whether the Medicare-for-all proposals have been scored by the Congressional Budget Office, whether such a plan would mean getting rid of the Affordable Care Act, and what would happen to people's current coverage under such a system.

"It would be instructive I think to everyone because to me it's confusing right now," she said. "I'm not making a judgment as to whether I think it's a good idea or not."

Rep. Diana DeGette (D-Colo.) told reporters she wants to hold hearings on the price of insulin and call on pharmaceutical companies to testify, according to Politico. DeGette is the new chairwoman of the House Energy and Commerce subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

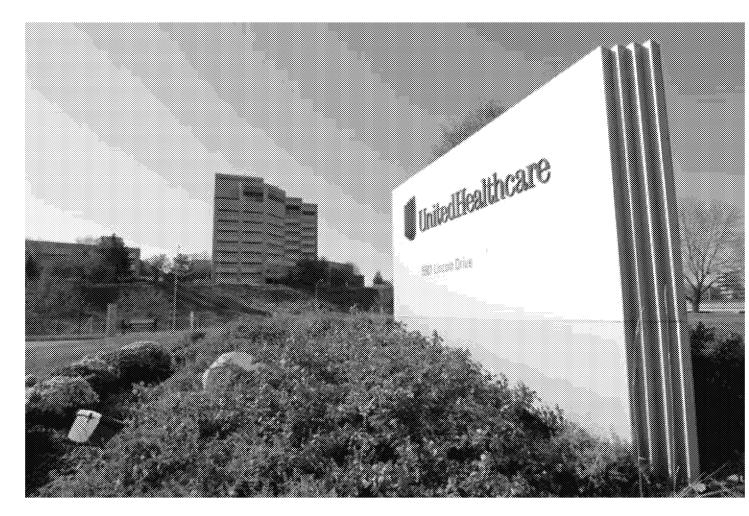


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(AP Photo/Jim Mone, File)

— Oliver Wyman will release an analysis today concluding Congress's actions in early 2018 to delay the ACA's health insurance tax for 2019 helped prevent Medicare Advantage premiums from increasing 55 percent on average. The study was commissioned by UnitedHealth Group, which has been lobbying to get the so-called "HIT" tax further delayed or repealed. Analysts estimate the nationwide annual premium for Medicare Advantage plans could have increased from \$393 in 2018 to \$612 in 2019 if the tax had been allowed to go into effect.



Apple chief executive Tim Cook speaks about the Apple Watch during a media event at the company's headquarters. (Josh Edelson/AFP/Getty Images)

— An Apple Watch for every baby boomer? That could be a plan in the works from Apple, which has reportedly had discussions with three private Medicare plans about subsidizing the watch for people over 65.

No deals have been made yet, but insurers are looking at the possibility. Apple watches start at \$279 for older models and \$399 for the newest version, which includes fall detection and an electrocardiogram, CNBC's Christina Farr reports.

"Apple has paid a visit to several of the largest insurers in the market, as well as some smaller, venture-backed Medicare Advantage plans," Christina writes. "Health experts say that seniors are an ideal market for the Apple Watch, which has introduced features that can be used by anyone, but are most beneficial to seniors, including fall detection and cardiac arrhythmia monitoring. It also makes sense as a business model for insurers, as seniors are a particularly lucrative market."

Even with the price of the product, insurance executives say the initiative would be worth it if wearing the watch helps beneficiaries detect health issues before they require expensive treatment, Christina writes. "Avoiding one emergency room visit would more than pay for the device," said Bob Sheehy, the chief executive of Bright Health, an insurance start-up with a Medicare Advantage plan.

— And here are a few more good reads:

Forget to take your medication? A new digital pill will alert you — and your doctor.

At the Masonic Cancer Clinic at the University of Minnesota, doctors have begun pairing a sensor with a common chemotherapy drug. The sensor transmits data from inside patients' bodies to doctors.



Peter Holley . Read more »

UnitedHealth loses appeal over underpayments

A federal appeals court unanimously ruled against UnitedHealth Group over the insurer withholding payments from out-of-network physicians and hospitals to compensate for previous overpayments.

Modern Healthcare . Read more »



MEDICAL MISSIVES

88-year-old woman dies after being found in garden of assisted-living facility in Virginia

Joan Ackley went "unaccounted for" for over three hours, police said.

Justin Jouvenal · Read more »



Patients Turn To GoFundMe When Money And Hope Run Out

Medical fundraisers account for 1 in 3 of the website's campaigns and bring in more money than any other GoFundMe category. Americans' confidence they can afford health care is slipping...



Minnesota Public Radio · Read more »

STATESCAN

New York Confronts Its Worst Measles Outbreak in Decades

The disease spread within ultra-Orthodox Jewish communities where vaccination rates are low and some are suspicious of government health workers.



New York Times • Read more »

Boston, Cambridge mayors plan visits to safe injection sites in Canada

The mayors are members of a state commission considering the pros and cons of such a site, which allows drug users to inject safely.



Boston Globe · Read more »

On the Senate floor with a gun on her hip, Republican says packing heat can deter violence

Sen. Amanda Chase decided to openly carry her gun after a colleague said he was mobbed by activists.



Laura Vozzella · Read more »

Michigan State's president to resign after he said sexual abuse victims enjoyed the spotlight

The university's Board of Trustees plans to vote Thursday on whether to terminate interim president John Engler if he does not resign.

Susan Svrluga · Read more »





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TRUMP TEMPERATURE

Patient groups blast Trump drug pricing proposal in new ad campaign

Several patient organizations, led by the American Cancer Society, are criticizing a Trump administration proposal they say would limit access to medicine.



Stat · Read more »

AGENOYALERT

These are the voices of the shutdown

From farmers to prison guards, hear the stories of people struggling through the shutdown



Whitney Shefte, Jorge Ribas, Joyce Koh, Lee Powell, Drea Cornejo, Paul Raila and Ray Whitehouse • Read more »

USDA reopens many field offices for 3 days to help farmers amid shutdown

Certain offices of USDA's Farm Service Agency across the country will be open on Jan. 17, 22 and 28.



Politico · Read more »

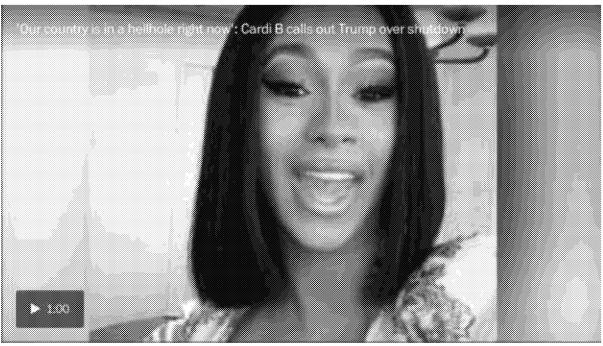
DAYBOOK

Coming Up

- The 46th annual March for Life rally will be held in Washington on Friday.
- The National Institutes of Health's All of Us Research program hosts a live Twitter chat on digital health technology and the future of health research on Friday.

SUGARRUSE

'Our country is in a hellhole right now': Cardi B calls out Trump over shutdown



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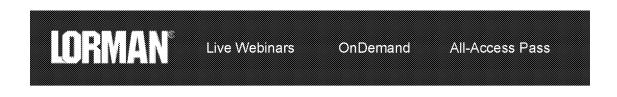


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Understand how to use social media to keep your community engaged and the steps required to build an effective social media policy. Public works employees have a tough job. They operate in all types of weather conditions, often working long shifts and odd hours. Public works employees are also frequently derided by citizens who are frustrated by perceived inefficiencies during a snowstorm, flooding or construction-related issue. It is also very easy for citizens to be frustrated with the local agency when they are sitting in congestion due to road projects. When the workers on the side of the road are nameless strangers, it's that much easier to race through a construction zone because drivers are in a hurry. It's also easy to declare that the roads in my town are the worst anywhere. This topic will help agencies start telling their story using social media and start engaging in conversations that can help the audience understand that there are real people (friends, family and neighbors) filling those roles. It will also teach you how to use social media and other technology to allow citizens to "walk in the boots" of public works. Many people love to have the inside scoop of how something works. The goal is to not only educate, but to empower the audience to serve as advocates the next time a conversation strikes up in the community. This topic will provide practical advice and guidance on building social media policies and engagement programs. You will leave ready to start using social media in a whole new way.

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12/19/2018 10:00 AM EDT

By SAM MINTZ (smintz@politico.com; @https://twitter.com/samjmintz)

With help from Stephanie Beasley, Brianna Gurciullo and Tanya Snyder

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THE COUNTDOWN

DOT appropriations run out in 2 days. The FAA reauthorization expires in 1,746 days. Highway and transit policy is up for renewal in 652 days.

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foresee such a place where all will drive / On and off the freeways' pass. On and off / All day, all night. And should the driving hives / Ever find a good bumble's nest be blocked / We'll bore a freeway further out of sight."

THE COUNTDOWN

DOT appropriations run out in 2 days. The FAA reauthorization expires in 1,746 days. Highway and transit policy is up for renewal in 652 days.

** A message from PlanetM - Michigan, where big ideas in mobility are born: Self-driving cars are just the start of the mobility revolution. Everything from transportation to jobs to quality of life for the elderly will be affected. And Michigan is leading the charge for the future of mobility. That's because Michigan has the resources, progressive legislation and infrastructure that enable mobility companies to thrive. 22 venture capital firms and eight angel groups are active in the mobility space in Michigan while another 46 provide entrepreneurial support. Learn more about the reasons to invest in Michigan at PlanetM.com. **

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From: Michele Exner [ExnerM=cbsnews.com@mail182.suw16.rsgsv.net]

on behalf of Michele Exner [ExnerM@cbsnews.com]

Sent: 9/23/2018 9:59:29 AM

To: Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]

Subject: Preview: CBS This Morning co-host John Dickerson interviews British Prime Minister Theresa May

View this email in your browser



*** Under embargo until 10:30AM ET***



Preview: CBS This Morning co-host John Dickerson interviews British Prime Minister Theresa May

Prime Minister May tells Dickerson that when it comes to the Iran nuclear deal, she says that Iran is keeping its end of the bargain.

May also adds "we do agree with the United States that there are other aspects of Iran's

behavior that we need to be dealing with."

On Friday September 21, CBS This Morning co-host John Dickerson traveled to London for a one-on-one interview with British Prime Minister Theresa May at 10 Downing Street.

They had a wide-ranging discussion on issues including May's relationship with President Trump, the Iran nuclear deal, Russia and the Brexit negotiations. This is Prime Minister May's only interview with a U.S news outlet in conjunction with the United Nations General Assembly.

The first preview will air this morning on FACE THE NATION. (Check local times level.) John Dickerson's interview with Prime Minister Theresa May will air on "CBS This Morning" Monday.

See transcript of the clip below:

JOHN DICKERSON: Has Iran been holding up its end of the bargain of the 2015 deal?

THERESA MAY: Well, this is-- the-- the question of that deal, of course, is an area where I do have a difference of opinion with-- with President Trump-- because we believe the JCPOA should stay in-- in place-- sorry. Tec- that- that -- we all use the initials. But it's the nuclear deal, basically. We all believe that that-- we believe that that should stay in place. And others, involved in putting that deal together believe that it should stay in place. We do agree with the United States that there are other aspects of Iran's behavior that we need to be dealing with, too. So looking at the issue of ballistic missiles. Looking at-- the way in which-- Iran is acting in the region-- to destabilize the region. We need to address those issues, too. But we also want to ensure that we have a nuclear deal in place that prevents them from-- of getting a nuclear weapon.

JOHN DICKERSON: But by your assessment, Iran is keeping up its end of the bargain?

THERESA MAY: We- from what we see, we believe that it is- doing that.

Read more here and below: (Link to article will become active at 10:30AM ET)

Theresa May says she believes Iran is holding up its end of the nuclear deal By: Grace Segers

British Prime Minister Theresa May told "CBS This Morning" co-host John Dickerson Friday that she believes Iran is holding up its end of the 2015 nuclear deal.

"From what we see, we believe that it is doing that," May said.

She also said the deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, should stay in place because she believes it will prevent Iran from gaining a nuclear weapon.

The U.K. and other partners continue to support the deal, which opened up economic cooperation with Iran, despite U.S. threats to sanction any country that did business with Iran.

Dickerson's interview with May will air on "CBS This Morning" on Monday.

Iran and other world powers — the U.S., China, Russia, the U.K., France, Germany and the European Union — reached the deal in 2015. It eased sanctions on Iran in exchange for the country curbing its nuclear program.

The International Atomic Energy Agency regularly checks Iranian nuclear facilities to ensure that the country is keeping to its commitments. The IAEA found at the end of August that Iran was

complying with the deal's requirements.

Earlier this year, President Trump, who criticized the deal during his campaign and during the first year of his presidency, followed through on his threat to withdraw from agreement. Signing a presidential memorandum, the president reinstated U.S. nuclear sanctions on the Iranian regime, jumpstarting the "highest level of economic sanctions."

"America will not be held hostage to nuclear blackmail," Mr. Trump said at the time. May said, "We do agree with the United States that there are other aspects of Iran's behavior that we need to be dealing with." She said ballistic missiles and "the way in which Iran is acting in the region to destabilize the region" are issues that need to be looked at.

"But we also want to ensure that we have a nuclear deal in place that prevents them from getting a nuclear weapon," she said.

"We believe that that should stay in place," she said. "And others involved in putting that deal together believe that it should stay in place."

PRESS CONTACT:
Michele Exner
Exnerivi@cbsnews.com

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Message

From: Morning Media [morningmedia@politico.com]

Sent: 9/14/2018 9:33:10 AM

To: Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]

Subject: Morning Media, presented by AARP: Fager fallout — Florence coverage — Trump Puerto Rico claims — Nelson out

at GQ, Deogun leaves CNBC

By Jason Schwartz | 09/14/2018 05:31 AM EDT

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From: Gina Kim [gina.kim@nationaljournal.com]

Sent: 6/26/2019 9:31:09 AM

To: Schiermeyer, Corry [schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov]

Subject: Fwd: What sources do you trust in Washington? National Journal wants your take

Good morning,

My colleague Michael Goodson asked if I could follow up with you on the email below. We would be thrilled to incorporate your perspective into this work!

Thank you for your support and please let me know if you have any questions.

Gina Kim General Manager, Research National Journal

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Michael Goodson <mgoodson@nationaljournal.com>

Subject: What sources do you trust in Washington? National Journal wants your take

Good morning,

Each year, more than a thousand senior policy professionals share with us their perspective on trust, technology, and news within the beltway. 2018 found continued **partisan gaps** in favored media brands, yet **both Republican and Democratic** insiders expressed **frustration** with **polarized news coverage**. Will sentiments of both parties ever converge?

As you get settled in this morning, please take a few minutes to <u>offer your own opinions</u> to National Journal's Washington in the Information Age research: <u>Participate Here</u>

Responses are strictly confidential, not for attribution, and only presented in the aggregate.

We greatly appreciate your time and contributions to this annual study. If you have any questions or would like more information about the research, please feel free to contact us at any time by emailing mgoodson@nationaljournal.com.

Thank you for your support,

Michael Goodson Research Analyst National Journal

If you have trouble accessing the survey above, please use this link.

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From: Morning Shift [morningshift@politico.com]

Sent: 3/5/2018 3:05:53 PM

To: Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]

Subject: POLITICO's Morning Shift: DACA enrollees brace for disruptions — Acosta, Nielsen at firefighters' event — OSHA

delays beryllium rule enforcement

By Ted Hesson | 03/05/2018 10:00 AM EDT

With help from Josh Gerstein

DACA ENROLLEES BRACE FOR DISRUPTIONS: The Trump administration's March 5 DACA deadline arrives today as something of an anticlimax, because two district court rulings in January and February largely mooted it. But it could still cause disruptions in the lives of some "Dreamers" brought to the United States as children.

When Trump announced in September that he would end the Obama-era program, he allowed Dreamers whose enrollments would expire before March 5 to apply for two-year renewals (though they had to do it by October 5, 2017; after that, renewals ceased). Most of the program's roughly 700,000 enrollees did not fall into that category, and starting March 5 they were set to lose DACA protections in large numbers. But that plan got scrambled on Jan. 9, when a San Francisco-based federal judge ordered the administration to restart renewals. A Brooklyn-based federal judge issued a similar ruling on Feb. 13. The Trump administration tried to get the Supreme Court to intervene, but the high court decided to let the matter move first through the district and appellate courts. That will likely take months, if not longer, and in the meantime the Homeland Security Department will have to renew DACA applications.

The courts' reprieve protects most DACA recipients, but it doesn't protect all. That's because DHS won't finish processing some renewals quickly enough to beat their expiration dates. The logical thing would be for DHS to prioritize renewals for DACA enrollments due to expire soonest, much as an airline will pull out of a check-in queue those people whose planes are due to take off soonest. But DHS isn't doing that; it's processing the renewals in the order received. Consequently, thousands of young undocumented immigrants could see their enrollments lapse in the coming months, disrupting their ability to work legally.

Some DACA recipients have been hesitant to renew, according to Lorella Praeli, director of immigration policy and campaigns at the American Civil Liberties Union. "The back and forth on all of this is extremely confusing, to say the least, and very unsettling," she told Morning Shift. "It's not very clear to people if they should renew their requests. There is a lot of fear in submitting their application, even if it's a renewal, just given the sense of uncertainty about what the future holds." Early data <u>suggests</u> DACA enrollees are proceeding cautiously: During the three weeks in January after the San Francisco judge ordered renewals to resume, only 11,000 DACA recipients seized the opportunity to apply.

The ACLU launched a \$300,000 advertising campaign on Sunday, partly to get Trump's attention, according to Faiz Shakir, the group's national political director. "He's a person who reacts to PR, publicity and attention, and if you're not in his face on headlines and press, then essentially you're kind of outside of his scope," Shakir told CNN's Tal Kopan. "Whatever we can do to try to make it a front-and-center, in-front-of-his-face issue, that's what we're going to try to do." The campaign aims to force Trump and Republicans to own the DACA termination, which advocates hope could spur congressional action. More from CNN here.

GOOD MORNING! It's Monday, March 5, and this is Morning Shift, POLITICO's daily tipsheet on employment and immigration policy. Send tips, exclusives and suggestions to theson@politico.com,

<u>ikullgren@politico.com</u>, <u>ahanna@politico.com</u> and <u>tnoah@politico.com</u>. Follow us on Twitter at <u>@tedhesson</u>, <u>@AndrewBHanna</u>, <u>@IanKullgren</u> and <u>@TimothyNoah1</u>.

TODAY:

Acosta, Nielsen at firefighters' event: Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta and Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen will speak this morning at the International Association of Fire Fighters' annual legislative conference. Acosta delivers remarks at 9:45 a.m. and Nielsen at 10 a.m. The 309,000-member union will call on lawmakers to pass the Firefighters Cancer Registry Act, H.R. 931 (115), which the House approved in September. The bill would require the Health and Human Services Department to create a voluntary registry that collects data on cancer among firefighters. The conference takes place today and Tuesday at the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill, 400 New Jersey Avenue NW. Watch a livestream here.

March for Dreamers: Young immigrants and their backers will march today to urge Congress to pass the Dream Act, S. 1615 (115), or a similar bill. The march starts at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History on the National Mall side at 11 a.m. Find more info here.

WEEK AHEAD:

Senate HELP to vote on Ring: The Senate HELP Committee will consider Wednesday the nomination of management-side attorney John Ring to become an NLRB member. Confirming Ring would give Republicans a 3-2 advantage on the board, but he might have to recuse himself from a lot of decisions. At a confirmation hearing before the committee last week, Ring <u>pledged</u> to avoid possible conflicts of interest to avoid the mess that board member William Emanuel landed in after he participated in December's <u>Hy-Brand</u> decision on joint-employment, which later had to be withdrawn because of conflicts flagged by the NLRB's inspector general. The committee hasn't set a time or location for the confirmation vote. Find more info here.

Speaking of joint employment, the NLRB asked the D.C. Circuit on Thursday to reopen litigation over the <u>Browning-Ferris Industries</u> decision, which made it easier to hold companies liable for violations committed by their franchisees and contractors. Read more from Bloomberg BNA's Lawrence Dubé and Chris Opfer <u>here</u> and the filing <u>here</u>.

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OSHA DELAYS BERYLLIUM RULE ENFORCEMENT: OSHA will delay until May 11 enforcement of its <u>final rule</u> on occupational exposure to beryllium, the agency announced Friday. Beryllium is a light metal used frequently in the aerospace and electronics industries that, when inhaled as dust, poses health risks for lung cancer, chronic beryllium disease, and other illnesses. The rule lowers the exposure limit by 90 percent.

OSHA had previously scheduled enforcement to begin on March 12, but pushed that back so businesses could be made "aware of their obligations" and so inspectors could be trained on the standard. The rule was published more than a year ago, and <u>revisions</u> by the Trump administration to make it less burdensome to the construction and shipyard industries were proposed almost nine months ago. So what's the holdup? <u>According to Thomas Galassi</u>, an OSHA director, the agency needs more time to conclude settlement negotiations in litigation that challenged the regulation. Read more from OSHA here.

WEST VIRGINIA TEACHERS STRIKE FOR EIGHTH DAY: "West Virginia public school teachers will strike for an eighth day [today] because the state legislature didn't meet their demand for higher pay and better benefits over the weekend," CNN's Sarah Jorgensen and Ralph Ellis report. "All 55 counties announced school

closures for Monday. About 20,000 teachers walked out February 22, keeping almost 277,000 students out of class."

The teachers have demanded better pay and benefits, which rank among the least generous in the nation, Philip Bump reports in the Washington Post. "West Virginia high school teachers made an average of \$45,240 a year in 2016, according to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics," he wrote. "That is the 47th-lowest salary in the 50 states and the District of Columbia, better only than Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma and South Dakota. Elementary and middle school teachers do slightly better - they're only 46th lowest."

The strike fever could spread to Oklahoma, according to KTUL. A Facebook group <u>dubbed</u> "Oklahoma Teacher Walkout - The Time Is Now!" has attracted more than 30,000 members. The teachers seek salary increases and could strike during the first week of April, KTUL reports. Read more from CNN <u>here</u>, the Post here, and KTUL here.

FIREFIGHTERS AT NASA CENTER AUTHORIZE STRIKE: Firefighters at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida voted down a proposed contract Friday and authorized their leaders to strike, according to their union, Transport Workers Union Local 525. The union claims their employer, Chenega Infinity, seeks to eliminate workers' paid sick leave and rolls back retirement benefits. TWU International President John Samuelsen said a lack of paid sick time would force firefighters to work with illnesses like the flu - "a potential disaster for NASA and for our firefighters."

DID MELANIA MERIT EINSTEIN VISA?: First Lady Melania Trump had a strong case for a so-called "Einstein visa," according to several immigration experts consulted by the New York Times's Miriam Jordan. The first lady obtained a green card in 2001 through the EB-1 visa program, according to a letter by her immigration lawyer <u>posted online</u> in 2016. The visa is available to immigrants of "extraordinary ability" and does not require sponsorship from a family member or employer.

"While the program may be the pinnacle of the merit-based immigration policies supported by critics of the visa lottery and family-based migration - indeed, by President Trump himself - the decision of what constitutes merit, while based on established criteria, is ultimately subjective and often surprising," writes Jordan. Atlanta-based immigration lawyer Marshall Cohen, who specializes in EB-1 visas, offered perspective to the Times. "I am assuming she made a lot of money, got a lot of press and was on the cover of magazines," he said. "She was probably a pretty easy case." More here.

TARIFFS THREATEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN: If Trump moves forward with proposed tariffs on imported steel and aluminum, he might find it harder to generate momentum for his infrastructure plan, David Harrison writes in the Wall Street Journal. "Tariffs on imported aluminum and steel could drive up the cost of infrastructure investments, accentuating price pressures already brought on by a growing global economy," he writes. The president has proposed adding a 25 percent tariff to imported steel and a 10 percent tariff to imported aluminum. White House officials defended the plan Sunday amid criticism from business groups and Republicans. "The notion that it would destroy a lot of jobs, raise prices, disrupt things is wrong," Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said on ABC News' "This Week."

Meanwhile, Trump reportedly aims to derail a \$30 billion project to build a new rail tunnel between New Jersey and New York, Michael Shear and Patrick McGeehan report in the New York Times. "The president's decision to weigh in forcefully against the so-called Gateway infrastructure project, which has been one of the United States' top transportation priorities for years, adds a significant obstacle to getting the project underway in the near future," the pair write. "Mr. Trump's opposition to the project is in part the result of his belief that it is important to Senator Chuck Schumer of New York, the Democratic leader, according to one person with knowledge of the president's thinking on the issue." Read more from the Journal here, ABC News here and the Times here.

DHS MEMO OUTLINES FINDINGS OF REFUGEE REVIEW: A memo issued by DHS Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen on Jan. 29 details the outcome of a 90-day security review related to the refugee resettlement program. The memo, part of a legal filing that references the review, calls for increased vetting of people from "high-risk countries" and consideration of which countries should be included on a list of security threats.

The review stems from an iteration of President Trump's travel ban policy, which suspended the refugee resettlement program for 120 days. When that deadline (pushed out by court challenges) arrived in October, Trump ordered a 90-day review of refugee resettlement from nations flagged previously for extra vetting using a process known as a "security advisory opinion." The administration hasn't identified the countries, but based on statements from officials, they are Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Mali, North Korea, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria and Yemen. All but two (North Korea and South Sudan) are majority Muslim.

During the review, refugee admissions from those nations were placed on hold, with allowances on a case-by-case basis. A Seattle-based federal judge in December <u>ordered</u> admissions to resume temporarily for refugees with "bona fide" ties to people or employers in the United States, a decision the administration appealed to the 9th Circuit.

A related court filing on Friday contains a memo from Nielsen to Francis Cissna, director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, that outlines the findings of the 90-day refugee program evaluation. In the memo, Nielsen calls for DHS and the State Department to conduct a review of the security advisory opinion nations and to propose an updated list within six months. The list, Nielsen wrote, should be "based on broader public safety and national security considerations, including terrorism threats, transnational organized crime, and other relevant factors." Read the court filing and memo here.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT UPDATE:

Maryland assembly allegations: Nearly every female lawmaker in the Maryland General Assembly <u>signed a letter</u> last week denying that the body was a "frat house," as an anonymous staffer argued in a recent report. The letter "was supposed to refocus attention away from ugly allegations about sexual harassment in Annapolis and onto women's progress in the legislature and efforts to address inappropriate conduct," Ovetta Wiggins writes in the Washington Post. "But instead the missive released last week created a backlash, with the head of the women's caucus asking for her signature to be removed and alleged victims of harassment saying they felt blindsided and further marginalized." More here.

Defending Trump against misconduct allegations: With communications director Hope Hicks set to resign, Trump will be left with one fewer female aide to defend him against sexual misconduct allegations, David Nakamura writes in the Washington Post. "Women in this role rightly or wrongly can defuse the criticism aimed at Trump, who has been accused by 19 women of sexual misconduct," he writes. "In defending Trump, Hicks and the other women in the West Wing have done what any top White House aides would be expected to do at a moment of crisis - try to shield the president from damaging revelations and protect his standing among his voter base." More here.

TEXAS TOWN TURNS TO REFUGEES: Cactus, a town in the Texas Panhandle, turned to refugees to bolster its labor force after a massive immigration raid in 2006 occasioned 300 arrests - roughly 10 percent of the town's population, Nick Miroff writes in the Washington Post. "Cactus and surrounding Moore County have bounced back from the raid, and the plant today is once more thriving, shipping steaks to Walmart and hamburger meat to Burger King," writes Miroff. "But finding workers remains a perpetual struggle." More here.

WALL CONTRACT RAISES QUESTIONS: "A tiny Nebraska startup awarded the first border wall construction project under [Trump] is the offshoot of a construction firm that was sued repeatedly for failing to pay subcontractors and accused in a 2016 government audit of shady billing practices," Margery Beck reports in the Associated Press.

"SWF Constructors, which lists just one employee in its Omaha office, won the \$11 million federal contract in November as part of a project to replace a little more than 2 miles (3.2 kilometers) of a current fence with post-style barriers 30 feet (9.1 meters) high in Calexico, California," Beck writes. "It's the first wall contract awarded in the Trump administration outside of eight prototypes that were built last year in San Diego. The project represents a sliver of the president's plan that was central to his presidential campaign promise for a wall at the border with Mexico."

"It remains unclear why SWF was listed on the bid for the wall contract instead of Edgewood, New York-based Coastal Environmental Group, which online government documents list as its owner," the AP reports. "Thomas Anderson, an Omaha lawyer who initially represented a subcontractor that sued Coastal in 2011, said he wouldn't be surprised if it was an attempt to dodge scrutiny of past legal problems." More here.

POST'S SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY UNDER FIRE: An NLRB regional office filed an unfair labor complaint against the Washington Post on Feb. 28 over its employee social media policy, Bloomberg Law's Jacquie Lee reports. The Post overhauled its social media rules in May, the Washingtonian reported over the summer. The new policy forbids employees from social media behavior that "adversely affects The Post's customers, advertisers, subscribers, vendors, suppliers or partners," according to the Washingtonian. If employees violate the standard, it could lead to disciplinary action, including termination. "The National Labor Relations Board complaint alleges management failed to negotiate with the union over its changes to the company's social media policy," Lee writes. "A hearing before an administrative law judge is scheduled for July 10. Management has until March 14 to answer the board's complaint." Read more from Bloomberg Law here and the complaint here.

COFFEE BREAK:

- -"New barriers to replace aging border wall in California," from the Wall Street Journal
- -"California nurses union leader RoseAnn DeMoro retiring, but remains 'on call,'" from the San Francisco Chronicle
- -"Japan's jobless rate at a quarter-century low," from the Wall Street Journal
- -"Teachers are now being asked to punch time clocks. What does that mean for their profession?" from the Washington Post
- -"Catching up with retirement after a recession," from the New York Times
- -"'ICE said California arrests were 'targeted,' but observer alleges dragnet," from the San Francisco Chronicle
- -"ICE shackled 92 Somalis for 40 hours on a failed deportation flight. That was just the start of the abuse," from the Intercept
- -"The new old politics of the West Virginia teachers' strike," from the New Yorker
- -"Calif. atty sued for \$23M over EB-5 investor scheme," from Law360

THAT'S ALL FOR MORNING SHIFT.

To view online:

https://www.politico.com/newsletters/morning-shift/2018/03/05/daca-enrollees-brace-for-disruptions-122735

To change your alert settings, please go to https://secure.politico.com/settings

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USA		•				

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Message

From: Afzal Bari [afzal.bari@nationaljournal.com]

Sent: 5/15/2018 3:26:07 PM

To: Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]

Subject: Do You Trust Social Media? Share Your Perspective

Colleagues,

I am excited to invite you to contribute your thoughts in the eighth edition of National Journal's **Washington in the Information Age**, our annual study of how DC Insiders consume Washington-focused information.

Each year, we revisit the most important questions around how news and information is exchanged, and as the public ponders the implications of data privacy and trust, we invite you to weigh in on how you navigate the evolving media landscape.

Your role in the federal government makes your insights critical to shaping our understanding, so I hope you will take 15 minutes to share your views. Participate Here.

Responses are strictly confidential and not for attribution, and only presented in the aggregate.

We know you are extremely busy, and in return for your generosity, we will provide you with priority access to the executive summary stemming from this research.

Thank you in advance, Afzal Bari Senior Vice President, Strategy & Operations National Journal

If you have trouble accessing the survey above, please use the link below. https://njresearch.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0fkGWaSIAYLw3vD?Q_DL=8vMcZGFZQNDaCvb_0fkGWaSIAYLw3vD_MLRP_1YMXbzRXA6 dMcXr&Q_CHL=email

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Message

From: Afzal Bari [afzal.bari@nationaljournal.com]

Sent: 5/30/2018 1:17:08 PM

To: Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]

Subject: What do you consider "fake news?" Share your input

Colleagues,

Last year, 94% of Washington Insiders were confident in their ability to detect fake news, but only 17% believed others could recognize news that had been fabricated. Have attitudes shifted since then?

We invite you to take 15 minutes and add your voice to National Journal's annual study of the evolving media environment. Participate Here.

Responses are strictly confidential, not for attribution, and only presented in the aggregate.

You experience and perspective is invaluable to us, and in return for your generosity, we will provide priority access to the executive summary stemming from this work.

Thank you for your support, Afzal Bari Senior Vice President, Strategy & Operations National Journal

If you have trouble accessing the survey above, please use the link below.

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Wilcox, Jahan[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]

From: Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman[politicoplaybook@politico.com]

Sent: Tue 2/27/2018 11:22:40 AM (UTC)

To:

Subject: POLITICO Playbook, presented by the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs: GUN CONTROL quickly stalls in the

Senate, as HOUSE DEMOCRATS agitate for action

View online version | Add politicoplaybook@politico.com to your address book.

Today's POLITICO Playbook presented by the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs

By JAKE SHERMAN (<u>sherman@politico.com</u>; <u>@JakeSherman</u>), ANNA PALMER (<u>anna@politico.com</u>; <u>@apalmerdc</u>) and DANIEL LIPPMAN (<u>daniel@politico.com</u>; <u>@dlippman</u>)

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DRIVING THE DAY

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT (YOU PROBABLY DID) ... **AS OF LAST NIGHT, 87 HOUSE DEMOCRATS** have signed a discharge petition to try to force a vote on a bill that would "ensure that all individuals who should be prohibited from buying a firearm are listed in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, and provide a responsible and consistent background check process."

-- A DISCHARGE PETITION is really the only way the minority can pressure the majority to bring a bill to the floor. It needs another 129 signatures to make it to the floor -- that means Republicans need to sign on, as well. *The signers* http://bit.ly/2BU7U8L

Good Tuesday morning. BILLY GRAHAM LOGISTICS, from Steve Scalise's office: "The Reverend Billy Graham will lie in honor in the Rotunda of the United States Capitol on Wednesday, February 28, 2018. An arrival ceremony will be held in the Capitol Rotunda at 11:00 AM. This ceremony will be open only to the Reverend Graham's family, friends, Members of the House of Representatives, Senators, and other members of the government. Members are requested to assemble in the House Chamber at 10:10 AM and proceed into the Rotunda at 10:25 AM."

GUN CONTROL IS HARD (#GCIH), via Burgess Everett: "The Senate stumbled out of the gate Monday in its efforts to enact even modest gun legislation, raising doubts about whether Congress can do anything in the wake of this month's massacre at a Florida high school. Senate Republicans, backed by the National Rifle Association and President Donald Trump, are pressing to quickly pass a narrow bill aimed at improving records and information-sharing in the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System.

"But attempts to pass the bill, called Fix NICS, encountered resistance from opposite ends of the political spectrum on Monday: Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah), a conservative, held up quick passage of the bill even as Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) blasted the GOP for shirking a broader debate on gun violence.

"Senate Democrats say the Fix NICS bill falls far short of the action that Capitol Hill should take in an era of increasingly frequent mass shootings. 'If we only pass Fix NICS, we'll be right back here after the next shooting, in nearly the same place. If all Congress does in response to the Parkland shooting is to pass Fix NICS, we won't have done our job. We must do more than that,' Schumer said on the Senate floor Monday. He said

Seife v. EPA (1:19-cv-05190)

7.31.2020

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the Senate should at least pass legislation implementing universal background checks." http://politi.co/2EUG52J

- -- BEHIND THE SCENES: FIX NICS urges governments to report to the nation's criminal background check network -- and punishes those who don't. But in the House, leaders promised conservatives that this would be tied up with a bill that allows people to carry concealed weapons across state lines. Unraveling that promise was the subject of a particularly long -- and animated -- House Freedom Caucus meeting Monday night on Capitol Hill. ...
- ... **SPEAKER PAUL RYAN** and the House GOP leadership says they'll wait to see what the Senate passes before they make any decisions what to do on guns. The House has passed the NICS bill.
- ATLANTA JOURNAL CONSTITUTION'S GREG BLUESTEIN -- "Delta's tax break may not take flight after Georgia Senate blocks it": "Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle said he would not support tax legislation that helped the airline 'unless the company changes its position and fully reinstates its relationship with the NRA.' He echoed a growing number of conservatives who opposed the measure over the weekend. ...
- "That move forced Gov. Nathan Deal and other supporters of the \$50 million jet fuel sales tax exemption to shift to the defensive, and prompted a growing number of Republicans to try to strip the provision out of a broader tax-cut bill that has already passed the state House." http://on-ajc.com/2GNccoJ
- **HEADS UP -- BORDER ADJUSTMENT TAX BACK?** ... **KEEP YOUR EARS PEELED:** A few sources told us yesterday that the president and the White House have expressed interest recently in reviving something that looks like the border-adjustment tax -- a Paul Ryan-promoted idea the GOP killed during the tax debate. This is a stunning development, as Republicans fought hard to kill this idea, partially because the president was skeptical of its utility. The BAT, as it was called in Republican circles, taxed imported goods. Many saw it as a way to fulfill Trump's promise on slapping tariffs on imported goods.
- DISPATCH FROM DOUG PALMER -- STEEL COMPANIES TARGET TRUMP: "President Donald Trump tunes into Fox News, MSNBC or CNN this morning, he can expect to see an ad urging him to keep his promise to restrict steel imports, the leader of a group whose members include U.S. Steel, ArcelorMittal and the United Steelworkers union told Morning Trade. "President Trump, America's workers are counting on you to protect our job and defend our national security. It's time to keep the promise and protect American steel." *The 30-second spot* http://bit.ly/2F68bHB
- **NOT A GOOD SIGN -- "Congress loses key immigration deal ingredient: A deadline,"** by Elana Schor and Heather Caygle: "The already-dwindling political urgency for Congress to reach an immigration deal all but collapsed on Monday when the Supreme Court took a pass on the issue.
- "The high court declined to take up the Trump administration's request to quickly weigh in on the Obamaera program shielding young undocumented immigrants from deportation. It's a blow to President Donald Trump, whose order to dismantle the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program has already been put on hold by two federal court rulings.
- "And now there's little bite left in the March 5 deadline Trump gave to lawmakers. In a Congress that was already at a stalemate over how to balance relief for DACA recipients with tougher border security, the ruling appeared to further dampen prospects for a legislative compromise and leave the fate of Dreamers to the courts for months to come." http://politi.co/2ouPGTF

-- WE ALL KNOW WELL that without a hard deadline, Congress is unlikely to do anything. As our colleague BURGESS EVERETT pointed out a few days ago -- the next best hope for reform advocates was the March 23 spending deadline. But that was before the court's action. With the court relieving pressure from that deadline -- and Democrats wary to spark a shutdown -- it's hard to see when immigration legislation might get moving.

****** A message from the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs: Keep Medicare Part D working for seniors. CMS has proposed regulations that will increase costs and cause disruption for millions of seniors. Tell CMS: don't make changes to popular preferred pharmacy network plans that will stick America's seniors with higher premiums & drug costs. Learn more. ******

TRUMP FAMILY'S MESS IN PANAMA -- "Bizarre legal brawl intensifies at Trump hotel in Panama," by WaPo's Joshua Partlow and David Fahrenthold in Panama City: "Last Thursday afternoon, the majority owner of the Trump International Hotel here in Panama arrived unexpectedly in the building's swank Sky Lobby with an entourage. He wanted to fire the Trump Organization, which has managed the hotel since it opened in 2011. But the Trump Organization has refused to leave. Since that first confrontation, police have been called multiple times to referee disputes between owner Orestes Fintiklis -- who blames the company's poor management and damaged brand for the hotel's declining revenue -- and the Trump Organization, which says it still has a valid contract to manage the place.

"Offices have been barricaded. Several yelling matches have broken out. The power was briefly turned off, in a dispute over the building's electronic equipment. At one point, Fintiklis - denied a chance to fire the hotel staff or even check into a room - played a tune on the hotel's lobby piano as an apparent show of defiance. On Monday, Panama's federal prosecutors said they had opened an investigation into the Trump Organization, after Fintiklis complained that he had been unlawfully blocked from his own property."

http://wapo.st/2EY9KUO

RUSSIA WATCH -- ISAAC DOVERE talks with former CIA Director **MICHAEL HAYDEN** in the latest "Off Message" podcast. "Hayden isn't sure about collusion. But when he looks at Trump and the Russians, he sees what he calls 'convergence.'

"There is an eerie and uncomfortable echo between some of the things the president tweets, the different points of emphasis on Fox News, the thematic stories in the alt-right media, and Russian bots,' Hayden said. 'I don't have to create collusion here: Each for their own purposes are well-served by creating deeper divisions within American society. The president, to play to his base; Fox News, for ratings; the alt-right, because they have a conspiratorial view of everything; and the Russians, to mess with our heads.'

-- ON MUELLER: "Hayden reads each of Bob Mueller's indictments with the eyes of a person who's run and chased many close-hold operations himself. His own assessment of how much of the iceberg we've seen so far: 'I don't know, but we keep uncovering more bits of ice.' And he says he's 'very concerned' what's coming in the 2018 and 2020 elections could be worse than 2016 -- much, much worse." http://politi.co/2EW3mS1

A SHOT ACROSS THE BOW -- "Holder group sues Walker for not holding elections in Wisconsin," by Isaac Dovere: "The National Redistricting Foundation sued Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin on Monday for not holding special elections for two state Legislature seats. The seats, left vacant by an assemblyman and state senator who resigned in December to take jobs in Walker's Republican administration, will otherwise remain

open until January 2019, following the regularly scheduled elections for the seats in November. ...

"The primary thing at this point is to just hold the damn elections," Holder said. Those are basic and fundamental, democratic and American concepts. You hold elections. The question is: 'What are you afraid of, Scott Walker?'" http://politi.co/2BSfTDb

FOGGY BOTTOM DEPARTURE LOUNGE -- "State Department point man on North Korea, Joe Yun, to retire Friday," by WaPo's Anna Fifield in Seoul: "The State Department's point-man on North Korea, Joseph Yun, will leave his post on Friday, even as there are glimmers of hope that Pyongyang might finally be willing to sit down for talks with Washington. Yun, 63, is retiring as special representative for North Korea policy and deputy assistant secretary for Korea and Japan after more than three decades of service. His departure reflects the widespread frustration within the State Department at diplomats' relative lack of power in the Trump administration, according to someone familiar with Yun's thinking." http://wapo.st/2sYBzut

THE ADMINISTRATION -- "Melania Trump Parts Ways With Adviser Amid Backlash Over Inaugural Contract," by NYT's Ken Vogel and Maggie Haberman: "The first lady, Melania Trump, has parted ways with an adviser after news about the adviser's firm reaping \$26 million in payments to help plan President Trump's inauguration. Stephanie Winston Wolkoff, who has been friends with Mrs. Trump for years, had been working on a contract basis as an unpaid senior adviser to the office of the first lady. Stephanie Grisham, Mrs. Trump's spokeswoman, said the office had 'severed the gratuitous services contract with Ms. Wolkoff,' who Ms. Grisham said had been employed as "a special government employee' to work on specific projects. 'We thank her for her hard work and wish her all the best.' The contract was terminated last week, according to two people with direct knowledge of the situation." http://nyti.ms/2sWE5Sf

THE JUICE ...

-- SPOTTED: Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) playing the piano last night at the Prime Rib. In the audience at the restaurant: Energy Secretary Rick Perry, Grant King, A.J. Brigg, Jared Michael, James McDonald, Jared Parks, Andrew Kovalcin and Rachel Hicks - *pic of Alexander playing with Perry in the background taking a pic* http://bit.ly/2GNiaPh ... Peter Thiel last night having dinner at Fiola ... Rep. John Larson (D-Conn.) yesterday at the Capitol Hill Trader Joe's and "being the responsible environmentalist that he is, had his own shopping bag!" per a tipster.

TRUMP'S TUESDAY -- After the president meets with Republican senators on renewable fuel standards, he will receive the Boy Scouts of America report to the nation. In the afternoon, Trump will meet with House Republicans on trade. Trump will also make an announcement about adding more leadership to the White House initiative on historically black colleges and universities.

FOR YOUR RADAR ... **NYT'S MAGGIE ASTOR**: "The number of reported anti-Semitic incidents surged 57 percent in 2017, according to an annual report by the Anti-Defamation League. The organization's Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents, released Tuesday, found 1,986 such incidents in 2017, compared with 1,267 in 2016. That increase was the largest in a single year since the A.D.L. began tracking in 1979." http://nyti.ms/2Fzo8nz

SOMETHING TO WATCH - Per CNN's Reliable Sources: "The New York Times has conquered the podcasting world with 'The Daily.' Now it wants to crack TV with a weekly news program. The Times is seeking an executive producer for the series, according to this job listing, which has been hiding in plain sight for a few weeks. Sam Dolnick, the assistant managing editor who is overseeing the NYT's new digital initiatives, told me

'we're hoping' the untitled series 'becomes a showcase for the most ambitious visual journalism of The Times.'

"A production company, Left/Right, is already on board. It has created several segments as tests. The idea is a once-a-week program, about 30 minutes long, although the length could vary. It will feature Times journalists at work and in the field."

PLAYBOOK READS

THE LUXE ADMINISTRATION -- "Housing official says she was replaced for rejecting Carson's costly office redecoration," by The Guardian's Jon Swaine and Ben Jacobs: "A senior career official in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has alleged that she was demoted and replaced with a Donald Trump appointee after refusing to break the law by funding an expensive redecoration of Ben Carson's office. Helen Foster said she was told '\$5,000 will not even buy a decent chair' after informing her bosses this was the legal price limit for improvements to the HUD secretary's suite at the department's Washington headquarters. Foster, 47, claimed that she also faced retaliation for exposing a \$10m budget shortfall, and for protesting when she was barred from handling a pair of sensitive [FOIA] requests relating to Trump apparently because she was perceived to be a Democrat." http://bit.ly/2BU59ar

SHOULD TRUMP PUT HIS PERSONAL PILOT IN CHARGE OF ALL FLYING AIRCRAFT? -- "Skepticism reigns about putting Trump's pilot in charge of FAA," by Brianna Gurciullo and Tanya Snyder: "[T]he notion of Trump's pilot as FAA chief is drawing skepticism from people in the industry, who note that recent leaders of the technocratic, \$16 billion-a-year agency have typically been people with long experience either in the government or running large organizations.

"In contrast, John Dunkin's experience since 1989, according to a Smithsonian documentary, has been working 'on and off' for Trump as his personal pilot. Dunkin is the Trump Organization's director of aviation operations for a fleet that includes a Boeing 757, a Cessna Citation X business jet and three Sikorsky helicopters. 'The only person that thinks it's a good idea, from what I gather, is the president,' said one lobbyist with aviation clients ... 'I think it'd be a tough confirmation.'" https://politi.co/2BT70YI

2018 WATCH -- WHAT REPUBLICANS SHOULD BE READING -- CHARLIE MAHTESIAN in Politico magazine **-- "How Republicans Can Win the Midterms":** "As dire as the situation seems for Republicans, the elements of a skin-of-their-teeth escape are coming into focus. Beginning in late December, both the generic congressional ballot and Trump's approval ratings began ticking upward. These numbers, apparent across almost all polls, were enough to curtail growing talk of a Democratic wave election on the horizon. Even Priorities USA, the biggest Democratic super PAC, took notice. ...

"The snapback in the polls may be short-lived. Over the past two weeks, the generic ballot numbers have moved slightly in a Democratic direction. The Republican uptick in the polls could represent a sign that the president and his party are beginning to get credit for the economy and tax cuts, or it could be simply a dead cat bounce. Either way, if the party can keep the generic ballot deficit under about 9 percentage points and the president's approval ratings can remain in the mid-40s, the GOP is in the range of where it needs to be to have a fighting chance of holding its House majority." http://politi.co/20za2dL

****** A message from the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs: Medicare Part D is working for seniors. An important part of the program's success comes from preferred pharmacy networks that promote quality and lower drug prices. Preferred pharmacy plans keep premiums low and are the most popular choice for seniors enrolled in Part D. But now, CMS is considering changes that would prevent seniors from choosing plans with preferred pharmacy networks. Tell CMS to stop proposed changes to Medicare Part D that would disrupt preferred pharmacy networks and hurt millions of seniors. Learn more. *******

MARC CAPUTO: "Rick Scott gets gun control makeover": "Florida Gov. Rick Scott broke with President Trump over the question of gun-toting educators. He's ticked off the NRA. Suddenly, he's in good graces with the state teachers' union, his longtime adversary. Scott's reaction to the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School mass shooting is making Democrats wonder if they're witnessing a broader general-election makeover one that could make him a far more potent challenger to Sen. Bill Nelson.

"That's something I'm sure the Nelson people are worried about,' said Allison Tant, the former Florida Democratic Party chair and a Nelson fundraiser and ally. 'Rick Scott is trying to erase the memories of everybody on the stances he's taken on guns for the past eight years. But it took not just one mass shootings in Florida, but two to get him to act. And he's not doing much,' Tant said, referencing the Pulse nightclub slaughter that happened during Scott's term in 2016." http://politi.co/2CmqTKc

-- "GOP showdown: McDaniel expected to challenge Wicker for Senate," by Alex Isenstadt: "Mississippi Republican Chris McDaniel is expected to announce later this week that he will wage a 2018 primary challenge against GOP Sen. Roger Wicker, according to two people briefed on his plans. McDaniel, a conservative state senator who waged an unsuccessful 2014 primary bid against longtime GOP Sen. Thad Cochran, has scheduled a rally on Wednesday afternoon in Ellisville, Miss.

"McDaniel is slated to hold a Facebook Live event on Monday evening to encourage people to attend the rally. He has recruited two senior Republican strategists, Rick Tyler and John Yob, to assist him. Tyler most recently worked as a spokesman for Texas Sen. Ted Cruz's 2016 presidential campaign, and was a staffer on former House Speaker Newt Gingrich's 2012 White House bid. Yob was a top aide on Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul's 2016 presidential campaign." http://politi.co/20vDsuo

IN THE HOUSE: "Republicans fret sexting scandal could cost them easy House seat," by Elena Schneider: "Republicans are fretting that a front-runner for an Arizona congressional seat - a married minister involved in a sexting scandal - will pull a Roy Moore and hand the seat to Democrats if he wins Tuesday's special-election primary. The seat vacated by former GOP Rep. Trent Franks - who resigned last December over his own sex scandal - should be an easy hold for Republicans.

"But a bombshell report of nude photos and text messages exchanged between the candidate, former state Sen. Steve Montenegro, and a legislative staffer - published just a week before the election - has left GOP operatives worried that 'it could be Alabama all over again,' said Shiree Verdone, who ran Arizona Sen. John McCain's 2010 Senate race." http://politi.co/2FyTvi7

-- "Republicans flock to take out scandal-plagued Duncan Hunter," by Rachael Bade: http://politi.co/2t06W81

FIRST IN PLAYBOOK -- Penguin Random House is moving up the sale date of Ret. Gen. Michael Hayden's

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next book to May 1. It's titled "The Assault on Intelligence: American National Security in an Age of Lies" - excerpts from the intro: "There is no effort here to build a case for or against collusion. But whatever emerges from Robert Mueller's investigation, it should not obscure the bigger story, which is still not adequately understood, and which is in a way this book's climactic case study, namely that Russia has been actively seeking to damage the fabric of American democracy and that the Trump Administration's glandular aversion to even looking at this squarely, much less mounting a concerted response to it, is an appalling national security lapse.

"Indeed, there is clear evidence of what I would call convergence, the convergence of a mutually reinforcing swirl of Presidential tweets and statements, Russian influenced social media, alt right websites and talk radio, Russian 'white' press like RT and even mainstream U.S. media like Fox News-all of whom do things for their own purposes, but all of which fits nicely with Russian purposes to sharpen and sustain divisions here." *The cover* http://bit.ly/2F9569C ... \$14.99 on Amazon http://amzn.to/2ES5wlw

MEDIAWATCH -- "Comcast Makes \$30.9 Billion Offer for Sky, Challenging Fox," by WSJ's Ben Dummett and Stu Woo: "Comcast Corp. on Tuesday made a tentative \$30.9 billion offer for Sky PLC, topping a rival bid from 21st Century Fox Inc. to consolidate ownership of the U.K. broadcaster and moving to peel away one of the most attractive overseas assets that Walt Disney Co. has agreed to buy from Fox. ...

"The move comes after Disney agreed last year to buy a big chunk of assets from Fox, including its stake in Sky, for more than \$52 billion. Sky was seen as a particularly attractive asset in the package-a way Disney could grow its overseas footprint. Sky declined to comment and representatives of Fox and Disney couldn't immediately be reached for comment early Tuesday." http://on.wsj.com/2CJuoHT

-- ANNIE YU, former audience engagement editor for the L.A. Times, is joining POLITICO as director of engagement. Carrie Budoff Brown emails the staff: "In this new role, which is part of our ongoing effort to reach new readers and build stronger and deeper relationships with our unique audience, Annie will oversee social media and work closely with editors across the newsroom to give our journalism maximum impact. She will also develop distribution strategies and drive off-platform storytelling, helping us reach our readers wherever they are."

PLAYBOOK ERS

SPOTTED: Justice Anthony Kennedy last night at the Shakespeare Theatre Company presiding over the mock trial "the Trial of Hamlet". Abbe Lowell was one of the defense lawyers. The prosecutors were U.S. Attorney for D.C. Jessie Liu and Judge James Boasberg. D.C. Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton, Thurgood Marshall Jr., Emily Lenzner, Alexandra Petri, and Stephen Ryan were among the jurors. "The jury voted 9-3 that Hamlet was responsible at the time of Polonius' death," per a tipster.

BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: Gary Knell, president and CEO at National Geographic Society. **A trend he thinks deserves more attention:** "Wildlife trafficking. 100 elephants a day are being slaughtered for ivory. There were 500,000 lions in the wild when I was born. Today, there are 50,000. Do we really want a world without wildlife? It's all human caused and preventable if we would just pay attention." **Read his Playbook Plus Q&A:** http://politi.co/2EX2bO7

BIRTHDAYS: Chelsea Clinton is 38 ... Massachusetts State Sen. Eric Lesser, an Obama alum (hat tip: Herbie Ziskend) ... Robbie Aiken, VP of federal affairs at Pinnacle West ... ABC7 alums Maureen Bunyan and Greta Kreuz ... Sasha Johnson, United's managing director of regulatory and policy and an FAA alum ... Genevieve Ryan is 29. "Her fiancé, Chris Bellaire, just completed his duty as a Marine Corps officer [on Monday] and flew to NY to be with her" (h/t Dad, Fred) ... Ralph Nader is 84 ... Sarah Clements ... Politico's Mike Irwin and Kelsey Wessels ... Joseph Green ... Rebecca Sinderbrand, NBC News senior Washington editor and a Politico alum (h/t Olivia Petersen) ... Greg Lubar, international director for brokerage at JLL ... Greg Speed, executive director at America Votes (hat tips: Jon Haber) ... Nils Bruzelius ... Bush alum Sara McIntosh ... Vincent Polito, principal at mdg ... HFA alum Kathy Gasperine ... Brian Malte ... Kelly Olsen ... Julie Merz ... Barb Prigge ... David Baumann ... Kate DePriest, assistant counsel to the IG at the SBA (h/t Adam Kaplan) ... Nick Minock, Michigan political reporter for Sinclair Broadcasting (h/t Mitchell Rivard) ... former Delaware GOP executive director John Fluharty ... Matt Herman ...

... David Merritt, VP for public affairs and strategic initiatives for AHIP (h/t Kristine Grow) ... investigative journalist and author Dan Moldea is 68 (h/t Nadia Szold) ... Sen. Maggie Hassan (D-N.H.) is 6-0 ... Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-Ill.) is 4-0 ... Rep. Luke Messer (R-Ind.) is 49 ... Jill Chappell ... Tim Morris is 4-0 ... Adam Elkington ... Anne Kimbell ... Mary Walsh ... Blanquita Cullum ... Adrienne Biggert Morrell ... Maria Koklanaris Bonaquist ... Ross Fitzgerald ... Alana Berkowitz ... Eddie W. Reeves is 56 ... Jim Norman Javinsky is 48 ... David Hercilla ... Dan Hull ... Craig Kennedy, former president and CEO of the German Marshall Fund of the United States ... Boehner alum Trevor Kolego, now SVP at the Smith-Free Group ... Mark Blumenthal ... Vivian Todini ... Justin Thiltgen.

****** A message from the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs: Medicare Part D is working for seniors. An important part of the program's success comes from preferred pharmacy networks that promote quality and lower drug prices. Preferred pharmacy plans keep premiums low and are the most popular choice for seniors enrolled in Part D. But now, CMS is considering changes that would prevent seniors from choosing plans with preferred pharmacy networks. Tell CMS to stop proposed changes to Medicare Part D that would disrupt preferred pharmacy networks and hurt millions of seniors. Learn more. *******

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From: Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman [politicoplaybook@politico.com]

Sent: 11/18/2017 3:10:33 PM

To: Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]

Subject: POLITICO Playbook, presented by Chevron: RUSSIAN-OWNED MEGAYACHT makes its way to Palm Beach as Trump

readies for Florida -- WHAT AMERICA IS READING -- WH aides give up on trying to control Trump's Twitter -- TOM

RICKS: Why I left Washington

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POLITICO PLAYBOOK

Today's POLITICO Playbook presented by Chevron

By JAKE SHERMAN (<u>sherman@politico.com</u>; <u>@JakeSherman</u>), ANNA PALMER (<u>anna@politico.com</u>; <u>@apalmerdc</u>) and DANIEL LIPPMAN (<u>daniel@politico.com</u>; <u>@dlippman</u>)

Visit the online home of Playbook

DRIVING THE DAY

WHAT AMERICA IS READING -- ANNISTON STAR (Alabama): "Moore's poll numbers down in allegations' wake" http://bit.ly/2iuF2cA ... DENVER POST: "Tax bill's winners, losers: Ultra-wealthy do well under plan passed by House this week" http://bit.ly/2jD9oi1 ... DETROIT FREE PRESS: "Rep. Dingell: I was also harassed ... She says 'prominent' person touched her as allegations mount in D.C." http://bit.ly/2hJiPdZ ...

- ... CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER: "'Trickle-down' idea floats back up: GOP says corporate tax cuts would speed growth despite spotty record" http://bit.ly/2mFjjTS ... AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN: "White House relief plan gets panned: Abbot, other Texas leaders blast \$44 billion disaster aid proposal" http://bit.ly/2itI40E ... PALM BEACH POST: "Russian oligarch's huge yacht docks at Port of Palm Beach: No word on whether Roman Abramovich will meet with Trump" http://bit.ly/2lXAawG
- -- **FASCINATING**, via today's Palm Beach Post's front page: "Days before President Trump flies into town for Thanksgiving, one of the world's most expensive yachts, owned by Russian oligarch Roman Abramovich, sailed into the Port of Palm Beach Friday afternoon.
- "The 533-foot Eclipse, valued at \$400 million to \$500 million, comes equipped with a pool, helipad, submarine and room for a crew of 92, according to marine websites. It made its

way past The Bahamas and docked at 1:15 p.m, taking the slip normally reserved for the Grand Celebration, a cruise ship currently on hurricane-relief duty in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. Originally booked to stay through Dec. 5, the Eclipse may have to leave Dec. 1, as it is being followed by the 644-foot World, billed as 'the largest private residential ship on the planet,' which is scheduled to arrive that day.

"Where will the Eclipse go? According to the MarineTraffic app, she plans to head south on the Intracoastal Waterway, toward downtown West Palm Beach. Note to Transportation Security Administration: That would put a Russian submarine within a mile or so of the winter White House." http://bit.ly/2AbRhp1

TALKER -- TOM RICKS in FOREIGN POLICY: "Babylon Revisited: Melancholy Thoughts After a Short Trip to Washington, D.C.: As a young reporter in political Washington in the late 1980s, I noticed that there was a type of person who thrived in the driven, transactional environment of the capital." http://atfp.co/2yXIIKh

HARDSHIP ASSIGNMENT -- JONATHAN MARTIN and ALEX BURNS in Austin: "Republican Governors' 2018 Dilemma: What to Do About Trump?" http://nyti.ms/2zNR8HS

Good Saturday morning. REALITY FINALLY SETS IN -- "Aides give up on trying to control Trump's tweets," by Annie Karni: "When candidate Donald Trump waged a Twitter war against Khizr Khan, the Gold Star father who rebuked him from the stage of the Democratic National Convention, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie were sent in for a 'tough love talk' about the efficacy of the tweets, two former campaign officials recalled. Controlling potentially damaging tweets was a job left mostly to the legal team in the early days of the administration. Former attorneys Marc Kasowitz and Jay Sekulow gave Trump one simple rule to guide his tweeting habit: don't comment online about the Russia investigation.

"The message was, tweet about policy, tweet about politics, but don't attack the special counsel,' recalled another former aide. None of the advice seemed to have any lasting effect on a president who views his own impulses as a virtue. And these days, the staff has basically stopped trying: there is no character inhabiting the West Wing who is dispatched to counsel the president when he aims the powerful weapon of his Twitter feed at himself." http://politi.co/2AYJPdQ

NYT'S PETER BAKER -- "In Mocking Franken Over Claims of Sexual Misconduct, Trump Joins a Debate He Started": "[T]he notion that Mr. Trump himself would weigh in given his own history of crude talk about women and the multiple allegations against him

surprised many in Washington who thought he could not surprise them anymore. A typical politician with Mr. Trump's history would stay far away from discussing someone else's behavior lest it dredge his own back into the spotlight. But as Mr. Trump has shown repeatedly during his 10-month presidency, he is rarely deterred by conventional political wisdom even as he leaves it to his staff to fend off the cries of hypocrisy.

"Like everything else Trump touches, he hijacks it with his chronic dishonesty and childishness,' said Mark Salter, a longtime adviser to Senator John McCain, Republican of Arizona. 'The intense, angry and largely ignorant tribalism afflicting our politics predates Trump's arrival on the scene. But he has infused it with a psychopath's inability to accept that social norms apply to him.'" http://nyti.ms/2hJ8PkX

CLINTON WEIGHS IN ON FRANKEN, MOORE -- "Clinton blasts Trump and Moore over sexual misconduct allegations," by Cristiano Lima: "Hillary Clinton slammed President Donald Trump and Alabama Senate candidate Roy Moore on Friday over their alleged sexual misconduct, criticizing them for not 'accepting responsibility' and 'apologizing' for their reported transgressions as Sen. Al Franken did. Clinton said that Franken, who was accused this week of groping a female broadcaster in 2006, acted responsibly by owning up to his actions and publicly apologizing for them - a far cry from the response given by Trump and Moore, she said.

"The former secretary of state and Democratic presidential nominee said that Franken's request to have the Senate ethics panel investigate his sexual misconduct 'is the kind of accountability I'm talking about.' 'I don't hear that from Roy Moore or Donald Trump,' she added during an interview with New York's WABC radio. 'Look at the contrast between Al Franken, accepting responsibility, apologizing, and Roy Moore and Donald Trump, who have done neither.'" http://politi.co/2hzuE2m

-- CLINTON ON TRUMP'S PRESIDENCY: "Trump 'has disgraced the office' ... Asked whether there was anything she admired about the Trump's tenure in office thus far, Clinton replied: 'No. The answer is absolutely no.' 'I didn't think he'd be as bad as he turned out to be,' she added."

TRUMP RESPONDS -- @realDonaldTrump at 8:31 a.m.: "Crooked Hillary Clinton is the worst (and biggest) loser of all time. She just can't stop, which is so good for the Republican Party. Hillary, get on with your life and give it another try in three years!"

ABOUT THOSE GILLIBRAND-CLINTON COMMENTS -- "Gillibrand remark on Clinton resignation shocks Democrats," by Gabe Debenedetti in New York: "Kirsten Gillibrand is having a moment, whether she meant to or not. Going where no other prominent Democrat

had before on Thursday evening by declaring that Bill Clinton should have resigned the presidency during the Monica Lewinsky scandal, the New York senator and potential 2020 presidential contender yet again found herself the face of a national conversation with the potential to dominate headlines and divide her party. ...

"The longtime Clinton ally's answer to the New York Times question neatly encapsulated how Gillibrand has placed herself front-and-center on the dominant issue of the day, even if it forces a debate her own party is uncomfortable confronting. And it highlighted the political dexterity that her critics and rivals often deride as opportunism: A former conservative Blue Dog House member, Gillibrand has reinvented herself as a leading progressive and face of the Trump resistance ahead of a potential presidential run." http://politi.co/2hzVmIj

****** A message from Chevron: We're piloting a program that uses drones to keep an eye on Chevron wells, tanks, and pipelines-all to keep DOERS and what they're doin' safer. Watch the video: http://politi.co/2zOnTVE ******

SHOW ME THE MONEY -- "Roy Moore scandal ignites fundraising explosion for Democratic challenger Doug Jones," by NBC News' Alex Seitz-Wald: "The Roy Moore scandal has unleashed a torrent of online donations to Democrat Doug Jones, who was collecting around \$250,000 per day in its immediate aftermath ... Democrats may end up in the unlikely situation of dramatically outspending the GOP in the Senate contest in deep red Alabama now that national Republicans have abandoned Moore." http://nbcnews.to/2zSy4FM

PRESIDENT TRUMP WEIGHS IN ON BIG GAME CONTROVERSY -- @realDonaldTrump at 7:47 p.m.: "Put big game trophy decision on hold until such time as I review all conservation facts. Under study for years. Will update soon with Secretary Zinke. Thank you!" Trump also retweeted Greta Van Susteren and Piers Morgan this morning supporting his decision on trophy hunting.

-- STATEMENT FROM INTERIOR SECRETARY RYAN ZINKE: "President Trump and I have talked and both believe that conservation and healthy herds are critical. As a result, in a manner compliant with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations, the issuing of permits is being put on hold as the decision is being reversed."

IT'S ALL ABOUT THAT BASE -- "Trump adds five conservatives to list of possible Supreme Court picks," by Reuters' Jim Oliphant and Andrew Chung: "In a move certain to please conservatives, President Donald Trump on Friday added five names to his list of candidates for a prospective U.S. Supreme Court vacancy as he presses ahead with a

campaign to move the federal judiciary to the right. Two of them are appellate judges who were nominated by Trump earlier this year and confirmed by the Senate: Amy Coney Barrett and Kevin Newsom. Another, Brett Kavanaugh, sits on the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington, long viewed as a stepping-stone to the high court. The others were Britt Grant, a Georgia Supreme Court justice, and Patrick Wyrick, a Oklahoma Supreme Court justice." http://reut.rs/2yVce3h

SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE -- "Trump still loves polls," by Josh Dawsey and Steven Shepard: "As a TV host, Donald Trump loved ratings. As president, he loves polls-as long as they show him on the upswing. He crowed on Twitter hours after landing back in Washington from his 12-day Asia tour about his Rasmussen number-46 percent-noting it was 'one of the most accurate' in 2016, and decried 'fake news' polls showing his approval in the 30s while also suggesting, with no evidence, that 'some people' think his numbers could be in the 50s. (The Rasmussen poll sank to 42 percent on Friday.)

"Aides in the White House often show Trump polls designed to make him feel good, according to aides and advisers. Usually they're the ones that focus just on voters who cast ballots for him in 2016 or are potential Trump supporters -Trump's base-but occasionally include public polls like Rasmussen, depending on what the numbers say. 'You know, I thought that he'd be a little less in campaign mode than he's been. I think he's never really kind of gotten out of campaign mode and I thought he might,' said New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, a Trump adviser. 'I guess it's his judgment that that's what he has to do but that's surprised me a little bit.'" http://politi.co/2jAobZp

A PROBLEM FOR REPUBLICANS -- "In towns and cities nationwide, fears of trickledown effects of federal tax legislation," by WaPo's Renae Merle and Peter Jamison: "[I]n small towns and thriving cities, in Republican- and Democratic-leaning states, local leaders are warning that the \$1.5 trillion tax legislation moving through Congress threatens to undermine their ability to raise money for government services, including police and schools. The Republican measures would eliminate or severely curtail taxpayers' ability to lower their federal tax bill by deducting the cost of their state and local taxes. Without that offset, local leaders say, taxpayers will begin to seek relief closer to home, potentially making it more difficult to provide basic services." http://wapo.st/2j6vAeX

FOR YOUR RADAR -- AP at 9:01 a.m.: "PARIS (AP) - Lebanon's Hariri says he is returning to his country, confirms he is resigning amid political tensions."

ANOTHER TWIST IN THE RUSSIA INVESTIGATION -- "Congressional aides may have answers on pro-Russia GOP platform change," by Kyle Cheney: "As U.S. investigators probe whether President Donald Trump's campaign orchestrated a Russia-friendly change to

the Republican Party platform last summer, three senior Capitol Hill aides - including Speaker Paul Ryan's chief of staff - may have answers about how the episode unfolded. The three staffers, who have not been accused of any wrongdoing, advised the GOP convention's platform committee on foreign policy matters and had front-row seats when a low-profile group of delegates, acting in conjunction with Trump campaign officials, spiked a proposal urging a tougher U.S. policy against Russian aggression in Ukraine.

"That change has drawn scrutiny from the House and Senate intelligence committees as they investigate whether any Trump campaign officials cooperated with Russian meddling in the 2016 election. Some witnesses say they expect it to become a topic of interest in special counsel Robert Mueller's parallel criminal probe. Spokespeople for the offices of two of the staffers told POLITICO they have not been in contact with Mueller or his team. But Ryan's top aide, Jonathan Burks, would neither confirm nor deny whether he had heard from the special counsel: 'I'm not going to have any comment,' he said." http://politi.co/2A7atUM

-- "Moscow meeting in June 2017 under scrutiny in Trump probe," by AP's Desmond Butler, Mary Clare Jalonick and Eric Tucker: "Earlier this year, a Russian-American lobbyist and another businessman discussed over coffee in Moscow an extraordinary meeting they had attended 12 months earlier: a gathering at Trump Tower with President Donald Trump's son, his son-in-law and his then-campaign chairman. The Moscow meeting in June, which has not been previously disclosed, is now under scrutiny by investigators who want to know why the two men met in the first place and whether there was some effort to get their stories straight about the Trump Tower meeting just weeks before it would become public ...

Congressional investigators have questioned both men - lobbyist Rinat Akhmetshin and Ike Kaveladze, a business associate of a Moscow-based developer and former Trump business partner - and obtained their text message communications." http://bit.ly/2hKpTqC

KEEPING HIS SENSE OF HUMOR -- @charlie_savage: "At Mayflower Hotel, Sessions jokes: 'Is Ambassador Kislyak in the room before I get started? Any Russians? Anybody been to Russia? Got a cousin in Russia?' #FedSoc2017". **30-second video** http://bit.ly/2A9Cvz7

HMM -- "U.S. Flagged Russian Firm Kaspersky as Potential Threat as Early as 2004," by WSJ's Paul Sonne: "A Russian cybersecurity firm whose products current and former U.S. officials suspect Moscow has used as a tool for spying was flagged by U.S. military intelligence as a potential security threat as early as 2004, according to new information the Defense Department provided to Congress. ... The DIA 'began producing threat reporting referencing Kaspersky Lab as a threat actor as early as 2004,' according to the email, reviewed by The Wall Street Journal, raising questions about why other federal agencies continued to use the firm's products." http://on.wsj.com/2mCiHyl

JARED WATCH -- "Kushner failed to disclose outreach from Putin ally to Trump campaign," by NBC News' Ken Dilanian and Carol E. Lee: "President Trump's son-in-law and senior adviser, Jared Kushner, failed to disclose what lawmakers called a 'Russian backdoor overture and dinner invite' involving a banker who has been accused of links to Russian organized crime, three sources familiar with the matter told NBC News. An email chain described Aleksander Torshin, a former senator and deputy head of Russia's central bank who is close to Russian President Vladimir Putin, as wanting Trump to attend an event on the sidelines of a National Rifle Association convention in Louisville, Kentucky, in May 2016 ... The email also suggests Torshin was seeking to meet with a high-level Trump campaign official during the convention, and that he may have had a message for Trump from Putin ...

"Kushner rebuffed the request after receiving a lengthy email exchange about it between a West Virginia man and Trump campaign aide Rick Dearborn ... Kushner responded to the email by telling Dearborn and the handful of other Trump campaign officials on the email that they should not accept requests from people who pretend to have contacts with foreign officials to aggrandize themselves ... 'Pass on this,' Kushner responded ... 'A lot of people come claiming to carry messages. Very few we are able to verify. For now I think we decline such meetings." http://nbcnews.to/2AamRDs

-- "Kushner attorney fires back at Senate Judiciary Committee," by CNN's Jeremy Herb and Evan Perez: "In a letter Friday to Senate Judiciary Chairman Chuck Grassley of Iowa and ranking Democrat Dianne Feinstein of California, attorney Abbe Lowell wrote that there were no 'missing documents' as the committee has alleged, while criticizing the panel's leaders for going to the media on Thursday with their accusations 'I would have assumed that, if there were any questions about our productions or exchanges, that would have been communicated to me directly before you made this a media event,' Lowell wrote." http://cnn.it/2isWU7A

PUTTING THE SQUEEZE ON MIDDLE EAST PEACE -- "U.S. puts Palestinians on notice: D.C. office may be shuttered," by AP's Josh Lederman and Matt Lee: "The Trump administration put the Palestinians on notice Friday that it will shutter their office in Washington unless they've entered serious peace talks with Israel, U.S. officials said, potentially giving President Donald Trump more leverage as he seeks an elusive Mideast peace deal. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has determined that the Palestinians ran afoul of an obscure provision in a U.S. law that says the Palestine Liberation Organization's mission must close if the Palestinians try to get the International Criminal Court to prosecute Israelis for crimes against Palestinians. A State Department official said that in September,

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas crossed that line by calling on the ICC to investigate and prosecute Israelis.

"But the law leaves the president a way out, so Tillerson's declaration doesn't necessarily mean the office will close. Trump now has 90 days to consider whether the Palestinians are in 'direct and meaningful negotiations with Israel.' If Trump determines they are, the Palestinians can keep the office. The official said it was unclear whether the U.S. might close the office before the 90-day period expires, but said the mission remains open at least for now." http://bit.ly/2yTYzcS

-- "The Mooch is headed to Israel just weeks after 'tone-deaf' Holocaust poll," by Page Six's Kevin Dugan: "A month after Anthony Scaramucci's 'media venture' posted a tasteless poll on the Holocaust, the short-lived White House communications director is taking a four-day trip to Israel, The Post has learned. 'I'll meet everybody,' he told The Post on Friday, hours before he was to take off. 'I'm having dinner with Dave Friedman, the ambassador, who's a great friend of mine.' The one-time hedgie is also heading to Yad Vashem, the Holocaust memorial site in Jerusalem, he said." http://pge.sx/2j6XJCy

CLICKER - "The nation's cartoonists on the week in politics," edited by Matt Wuerker, whose birthday is today -- **17 keepers** http://politi.co/2AQIdlU



PLAYBOOK READS



PHOTO DU JOUR: Maryland lacrosse player Dylan Maltz (right) of Ashburn, Va., shows off his pro-Trump tie to President Donald Trump as the president meets with NCAA championship teams at the White House on Nov. 17. | Evan Vucci/AP Photo

THE GRINCH -- "CIA nixes holiday party invites for media," by Ali Watkins: "CIA Director Mike Pompeo has opted not to invite reporters to the CIA's annual holiday party this year, ending a years-long streak of inviting the intelligence press corps to the upscale event. The event has historically provided a rare opportunity for reporters to mingle with agency officials who typically shun or avoid them - but that the idea has been nixed by Pompeo, who has been openly critical of the news media, was hardly surprising. ... The party, held in the agency's iconic headquarters lobby, is also a famously bizarre Washington exercise. Reporters, closely minded by the CIA's press staff, are able to mingle in the hors d'oeuvres line with station chiefs, foreign partners and occupants of the CIA's executive offices." http://politi.co/2zPqD48

BRETT TALLEY PROFILE - "Law clerk by day, ghost hunter by night, now Trump's judiciary nominee," by WaPo's Robert O'Harrow Jr.: "Few in memory have been nominated with credentials quite like those of [Brett] Talley, 36, an Alabama native, a political speechwriter, an author of horror books and a fledgling lawyer who has never tried a case. In 2009 and 2010, he was a member of the Tuscaloosa Paranormal Research Group, a volunteer operation that since the early 2000s has held all-night vigils and used infrared cameras, handheld sensors and other devices to search for spectral entities in plantation mansions, abandoned hospitals and other buildings. ... In 2014, when he was a speechwriter on Capitol Hill, Talley took a Post reporter ghost hunting in a District cemetery."

http://wapo.st/2ze5jGK

NOT THE ONION - "Candidate for Ohio governor reveals sexual past on Facebook," by AP's Julie Carr Smyth in Columbus: "A state Supreme Court justice running for governor volunteered candid details of his sexual past on Facebook on Friday, saying he was taking a swipe at the 'media frenzy' over sexual misconduct. Democrat William O'Neill's post was immediately attacked as inappropriate and led to calls for his ouster. In it, he wrote that he has been 'sexually intimate with approximately 50 very attractive females," including 'a gorgeous blonde' with whom he 'made passionate love' in a hay loft and a 'drop dead gorgeous red head' from Cleveland." http://bit.ly/2zPfuAH

WES GOODMAN UPDATE -- "How a conservative group dealt with a fondling charge against a rising GOP star," by WaPo's Kimberly Kindy and Elise Viebeck: "On a fall evening two years ago, donors gathered during a conference at a Ritz-Carlton hotel near Washington to raise funds for a 31-year-old candidate for the Ohio legislature who was a rising star in evangelical politics. Hours later, upstairs in a hotel guest room, an 18-year-old college student who had come to the event with his parents said the candidate unzipped his pants and fondled him in the middle of the night.

"The frightened teenager fled the room and told his mother and stepfather, who demanded action from the head of the organization hosting the conference ... Tony Perkins, president of the Council for National Policy [and head of the Family Research Council] ... Goodman, 33, abruptly resigned this week after state legislative leaders learned of what the House speaker called 'inappropriate behavior related to his state office.' Local media outlets have reported the behavior involved a consensual sexual encounter with a male visitor in his legislative office." http://wapo.st/2AYMkgf

DRIP, DRIP, DRIP -- "Rep. Gianforte's account to police on assault of reporter appears to contradict his later apology," by WaPo's Ellie Silverman: "Documents released by law enforcement officials in Montana on Friday show that Greg Gianforte, then the Republican candidate in the state's special congressional election, told police in May that a reporter from the Guardian had grabbed his wrist during a physical altercation at his campaign headquarters, blaming the 'liberal media' for 'trying to make a story.' His statement appears to contradict the apology he later issued to Ben Jacobs, saying the reporter 'did not initiate any physical contact with me,' raising questions about whether the congressman was truthful with authorities. Travis Hall, a spokesperson for Gianforte, referred The Washington Post to a statement given to the Associated Press, in which he said the information in the documents was 'nothing new." http://wapo.st/2jyIgPE

****** A message from Chevron: This is a story about energy, safety, and some truly high-flyin' doin'. We're piloting a program that uses drones, HD imaging, and thermal mapping to help keep a close eye on Chevron wells, tanks, and pipelines-all to keep DOERS and what they're doin' safer. Watch the video: http://politi.co/2zOnTVE ******

VALLEY TALK -- "The TED talks empire has been grappling with sexual harassment, interviews and internal emails show," by WaPo's Elizabeth Dwoskin and Danielle Paquette: "[B]ehind the scenes, TED owner Chris Anderson and other senior officials [has] been grappling with accusations for much of the year that their own conferences, famed for turning short speeches by leading figures into viral videos, had not been a safe place for women - and that the atmosphere of predatory male behavior was getting worse. At least five

people, including a past main stage speaker, told TED officials that they were harassed or groped during the organization's flagship conference in Vancouver in April." http://wapo.st/2iu1DWJ

-- "Y Combinator Cuts Ties With Peter Thiel After Ending Part-Time Partner Program," by BuzzFeed's Ryan Mac: "Billionaire venture capitalist and Facebook board member Peter Thiel is no longer affiliated with startup accelerator Y Combinator, according to an edited company blog post. Thiel was formerly a part-time partner with the accelerator." http://bzfd.it/2zNwd7C

CHRIS FRATES talks to former Obama WH ethics czar and Amb. Norm Eisen about "suing Trump, returning to his mother's homeland as ambassador after she was driven out and sent to Auschwitz by the Nazis, and being the inspiration for a Jeff Goldblum character." "Politics Inside Out with Chris Frates" airs today at 9 a.m. and 9 p.m., Sunday at 1 p.m., and Monday at 2 p.m. on SiriusXM channel 124 and on demand on the SiriusXM app. Clips for Playbookers: Eisen on resisting Trump https://goo.gl/vhTdtd ... Finding Nazi artifacts in the U.S. ambassador's house in Prague https://goo.gl/BnchFU ... Goldblum https://goo.gl/HF8J8A

MEDIAWATCH -- "The Kochs Are Inching Closer to Becoming Media Moguls," by NYT's Sydney Ember and Ken Vogel: http://nyti.ms/2mACNsE

- -- "Daily Beast among digital sites eyeing sale," by CNN's Dylan Byers: "Digital media is facing a reckoning. The start-ups that were once the darlings of the industry are facing budget shortfalls and revenue declines as they struggle to survive in an over-saturated market where Google and Facebook lay claim to the vast majority of ad dollars. Now, the bubble is bursting and many of these companies are looking to sell. In the latest evidence of volatility, CNN has learned that IAC is entertaining potential buyers for The Daily Beast, the news and opinion site launched nearly a decade ago by former Vanity Fair editor Tina Brown." http://cnnmon.ie/2ze19yu
- -- CHRIS WALLACE in WaPo, "The media is giving up its place in our democracy": $\underline{http://wapo.st/2jzPyTf}$
- -- TYLER BRULE's final FT column http://on.ft.com/2zRvgZy

LATE-NIGHT BEST -- BILL MAHER's segment last night pushing back against efforts to conflate Al Franken's action with the sexual abuse allegations facing Roy Moore, Harvey Weinstein, Kevin Spacey, Donald Trump and others. **7-min. video** http://bit.ly/2AWQ7Lc

GREAT WEEKEND READS, curated by Daniel Lippman, filing from Middleburg, Virginia:

- -- "Your Reckoning. And Mine," by Rebecca Traister in NYMag: "As stories about abuse, assault, and complicity come flooding out, how do we think about the culprits in our lives? Including, sometimes, ourselves." http://bit.ly/2zMLsOp
- -- "The Tech Industry's Gender-Discrimination Problem," by the New Yorker's Sheelah Kolhatkar: "The dramatic imbalance in pay and power has created the conditions for abuse. More and more, women are pushing for change." http://bit.ly/2A7pcyZ
- -- "How One Woman's Digital Life Was Weaponized Against Her," by Brooke Jarvis in Wired per Longform.org's description: "After the relationship ended, the harassment began." http://bit.ly/2hJ1uBT
- -- "The Meaning of Sharp Power," by Christopher Walker and Jessica Ludwig in Foreign Affairs: "Over the past decade, China has spent tens of billions of dollars to shape public opinion and perceptions around the world, employing a diverse toolkit that includes thousands of people-to-people exchanges, wide-ranging cultural activities, the development of media enterprises with global reach, and educational programs. The most notable of these is the ever-expanding network of Confucius Institutes." http://fam.ag/2zOSvWc
- -- "The Lost Genocide," by Doug Bock Clark in Longreads: "Why the United Nations may never be able to prosecute the Rohingya genocide." http://bit.ly/2yTOcWw
- -- "On Being Midwestern: The Burden of Normality," by Phil Christman in the Hedgehog Review -- per ALDaily.com's description: "What's it like to be from "an abstract nowhere"? Midwesterners have a regional identity built on the idea of unqualified normality. But that isn't as simple as it sounds." http://bit.ly/2AXOnRW
- -- "Avengers in Wrath: Moral Agency and Trauma Prevention for Remote Warriors," by Dave Blair and Karen House on Lawfare per TheBrowser.com's description: "We think of remote drone pilots as somewhat akin to high-powered video-gamers, wreaking havoc on a screen. And perhaps they are. But they experience their role as something much closer to real-world combat and killing. The imperative is not 'kill or be killed', as it would be in localised combat, but rather, 'kill or someone else will be killed' and the stress is almost as great. 'A world without your fire support could easily become a world without your comrades." http://bit.ly/2zSat8e

- -- "Iraq's Surprise: The Persistence of Democracy," by Yaroslav Trofimov on the cover of WSJ's Review section: "Long fractured, the country stands out in the Middle East for maintaining free elections and a robust press." http://on.wsj.com/2hJP2Sk
- -- "The Brothers Who Bought South Africa," by Matthew Campbell and Franz Wild in Bloomberg Businessweek: "The continent's most important economy now appears to function for the benefit of one powerful family." https://bloom.bg/2j37KAO
- -- "Two Murder Convictions for One Fatal Shot," by Ken Armstrong in The New Yorker: "In dozens of criminal trials, prosecutors have put the same gun in the hands of more than one defendant." http://bit.ly/2zcvmhe
- -- "The myth of the male bumbler," by Lili Loofbourow in The Week: "Allow me to make a controversial proposition: Men are every bit as sneaky and calculating and venomous as women are widely suspected to be." http://bit.ly/2zPE4Br
- -- "Rug Money," by the Weekly Standard's Alice B. Lloyd: "Paul Manafort ruined a solid scam, says former middleman for Iranian regime, as well as IRS and Treasury agents." http://tws.io/2jyDbHd
- -- "How Did Two All-Americans Fall In With ISIS?" by Mike Mariani in Psychology Today per Longform.org's description: "In 2015, two bright Mississippi State college students started dating. Months later, they were planning their life together-alongside ISIS." http://bit.ly/2j3W695
- --"How an Atlanta power couple's business has heightened Hollywood and Silicon Valley's piracy anxieties," by LATimes' Ryan Faughnder: http://lat.ms/2jB0f6m
- -- "Spurned by ESPN, Barstool Sports Is Staying on Offense," by Jay Caspian Kang in tomorrow's NYT Magazine: "There exists a swarm of angry sports fans who maintain that they do not want to talk about Colin Kaepernick or the national anthem, and Barstool has cleared a space for them to gather and talk, mostly, about just how much they don't want to talk about politics. They claim to be an overlooked majority the vast market inefficiency that will richly reward anyone who will let them watch their games, memes and funny videos without having to feel bad about themselves. Barstool is their safe space."

 http://nyti.ms/2hHvY7k

PLAYBOOK READS

SPOTTED: Stephen Miller dining at DBGB last night in City Center ... Larry Rasky, Dick Keil and Mark Paustenbach at the Dead & Co. show last night at the TD Garden in Boston ... Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) on an early Friday morning United flight to Cleveland from DCA

REMEMBERING BOBBY BAKER - WaPo's Jon Thurber: "Bobby Baker, a protege of future president Lyndon B. Johnson whose career of wealth and privilege came crashing down in an influence-peddling scandal, died Nov. 12 -- his 89th birthday -- in St. Augustine, Fla. Mr. Baker [was] once the most influential staffer in the U.S. Senate ... 'Mr. Baker, I understand you know where the bodies are buried in the Senate. I'd appreciate it if you'd come to my office and talk with me,' the newly elected Sen. Johnson (D-Tex.) said in his first telephone conversation with Mr. Baker in late 1948. Mr. Baker was just 20 at the time and a staffer for the Senate leadership ... His vast knowledge of the operations of the Senate and his facility in the art of accommodation - moving pet legislative projects ahead for some senators or helping fulfill the proclivities of others for drink, sex or cash - would make him an invaluable asset to Johnson." http://wapo.st/2zNz94k

HAPPENING TODAY -- The Clinton School and Clinton Foundation are hosting a conversation in Little Rock with Bill and Hillary Clinton, moderated by James Carville at 3:30 p.m. *Livestream* http://bit.ly/2Aasphn

-- SPOTTED at the Capital Hotel Bar and Grill in Little Rock last night for the 25th Clinton campaign: DeeDee Myers, Gene Sperling, Mary Streett, Stephanie Streett, John Podesta, Tamera Luzzatto, Jim Kennedy, JoDee Winterhof, Jill Alper, David Beaubaire, Kris Balderston, Adrienne Elrod, James Carville, Amanda Crumley, Patrick Mellody, James Greelish, Catherine Cornelius

BIRTHWEEK (was yesterday): Jeff Watters, director of government Relations at the Ocean Conservancy (hat tip: Samantha Bisogno)

BIRTHDAYS: NYT's Sheryl Stolberg ... Megyn Kelly is 47 ... Politico cartoonist Matt Wuerker ... USA Today's Heidi Przybyla ... Margaret Capehart ... ABC News' Gregory Simmons ... Brian Forest, who is joining NAM on Monday as director of strategic messaging and most recently served as McConnell's chief speechwriter ... Carrie Matthews of Hamilton Place Strategies ... Dan Sadlosky, policy adviser to House Majority Whip Steve Scalise ... Politico's Theo Meyer and Patricia Kolby ... Tom Namako, deputy news director at BuzzFeed and a WSJ and N.Y. Post alum ... Andrea Stone, director of career services at CUNY's Graduate School of Journalism ... Cassi Gritzmacher, head of executive comms at Away ... Robert Dougherty, Rep. Julia Brownley's senior LA and the pride of Syracuse, NY (h/t Samantha Greene) ...

... Cornyn comms. director Drew Brandewie is 33 ... Teddie Norton, director of government affairs operations at the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America (h/t Mike Reilly) ... Abby Tinsley ... Trisha Farr ... Brian Knapp ... Rep. Tom Reed (R-N.Y.) is 46 ... Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.) is 5-0 ... former Rep. J.C. Watts (R-Okla.) is 6-0 ... Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-Calif.) is 53 ... Nick Ragone ... Nima Faz ... Arshad Hasan ... Waldo Tibbetts ... Nicole Ianucci ... Gregory Kallenberg ... David Frank ... Noelia Rodriguez ... Hanna Skandera ... Richard Maopolski ... Gregg Holman ... Erica DeVos ... Jon Kaplan ... Meg Gage ... Ace Smith (h/ts Teresa Vilmain)

THE SHOWS by @MattMackowiak, filing from Austin:

- --"Fox News Sunday": Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin. Panel: Jason Chaffetz, Jessica Tarlov, Jason Riley and Juan Williams ... "Power Player of the Week" with Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-N.Y.)
- --CBS's "Face the Nation": Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) ... Rep. Jackie Speier (D-Calif.) ... OMB Director Mick Mulvaney. Panel: David French, Jennifer Jacobs, Ruth Marcus and Ed O'Keefe
- --NBC's "Meet the Press": Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-Va.) and Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-Mich) ... OMB Director Mick Mulvaney. Panel: Bob Costa, Rich Lowry, Joy Reid and Amy Walter
- --CNN's "State of the Union": Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) ... OMB Director Mick Mulvaney ... Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.). Panel: Amanda Carpenter, Neera Tanden, Michael Caputo and Rep. Robin Kelly (D-Ill.)
- --ABC's "This Week": Marc Short ... Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine). Panel: Matthew Dowd, Cecilia Vega, Lanhee Chen, Stephanie Cutter and Megan Murphy
- --CNN's "Inside Politics" with John King: Karoun Demirjian, Michael Shear, Eliana Johnson and Rachael Bade (substitute anchor: CNN's Nia-Malika Henderson)
- --CNN's "Reliable Sources": Panel: Birmingham News' Anna Claire Vollers, Washingtonian Magazine's Elaina Plott, Michelle Ciulla Lipkin and Marc Fisher ... Bill Carter ... Angelo Carusone ... Jacquelyn Martin ... Anthony Atamanuik
- --Fox News' "Sunday Morning Futures": Eric Trump ... Rep. Peter Roskam (R-Ill.) ... Rep. Darrell Issa (R-Calif.) ... Bud Cummins. Panel: Ed Rollins and Mary Kissel

- --Fox News' "MediaBuzz": Emily Jashinsky ... Francesca Chambers ... Michael Tomasky ... Susan Ferrechio ... Lynn Sherr ... Leslie Marshall ... Amy Holmes ... Mara Liasson
- **--CNN's "Fareed Zakaria GPS":** Niall Ferguson, The Economist's Anne McElvoy and author and former Polish Defense Minister Radoslaw Sikorski ... Ray Dalio ... Salman Rushdie
- --Univision's "Al Punto": Rep. Linda Sanchez (D-Calif.) ... undocumented immigrants and former sanctuary church refugees Jeanette Vizguerra, Jaime Flores and Amanda Morales ... Isabel Allende ... Univision Investiga director Gerardo Reyes and Univision News investigative journalist Peniley Ramírez ... musician Alejandro Sanz
- --C-SPAN: "The Communicators": Adam Alter ... "Newsmakers": Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, questioned by the Houston Chronicle's Kevin Diaz and Politico's Josh Gerstein ... "Q&A": Musician and author Daryl Davis
- --PBS' "To the Contrary": Rep. Marcia Fudge (D-Ohio)
- **--Washington Times' "Mack on Politics"** weekly politics podcast with Matt Mackowiak (download on iTunes, Google Play, or Stitcher or listen at http://bit.ly/2mCW4tB). Syndicated columnist and American Commitment president Phil Kerpen.
- ****** A message from Chevron: This is a story about energy, safety, and some truly high-flyin' doin'. We're piloting a program that uses drones, HD imaging, and thermal mapping to help keep a close eye on Chevron wells, tanks, and pipelines-all to keep DOERS and what they're doin' safer. Watch the video: http://politi.co/2zOnTVE ******

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To: Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]

Subject: Sep. 25 -- Daily Environment Report - Afternoon Briefing







Daily Environment Report

Afternoon Briefing - Your Preview of Today's News

The following news provides a snapshot of what Bloomberg BNA is working on today. Read the full version of all the stories in the final issue, published each night. The Bloomberg BNA Daily Environment Report is brought to you by EPA Libraries. Please note, these materials may be copyrighted and should not be forwarded outside of the U.S. EPA. If you have any questions or no longer wish to receive these messages, please contact Josue Rivera-Olds at <u>rivera-olds.josue@epa.gov</u>, 202-566-1558.

Cities Chafe at Clean Water Rules for L.A.'s Concrete River

Posted September 25, 2017, 02:09 P.M. ET

By Amena H. Saiyid

The L.A. River may be the perfect setting for Hollywood-style car chases, but it's not your typical river and shouldn't be treated like one under the law, a group of Southern California municipalities say.

They want the federal government to exclude the concrete-lined Los Angeles River and its paved tributaries from Clean Water Act requirements under an upcoming regulation, a move they say could save them from spending billions of dollars on stormwater controls.

City officials from the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments say the river and its tributaries shouldn't be subject to the Trump administration's upcoming rewrite of the "Waters of the U.S." rule, which defines the scope of federal protections for wetlands and certain isolated or ephemeral waters. They argue they aren't "relatively permanent" flowing waters due to the seasonality of storms, don't support fish or vegetation, and aren't freely accessible to the public.

Sheila Kuehl, member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, however, said she opposes efforts to exclude the river from Clean Water Act protections.

"While we might save some money in the short run by reducing the important protections of the Clean Water Act, we would certainly pay later in increased medical costs for Angelenos

sickened by polluted waterways, as well as a loss of tourism dollars as fewer people flocked to LA's famous beaches, lakes and rivers," she told Bloomberg BNA Sept. 25 by email.

"LA County deserves clean healthy ecosystems," she wrote. "I will not support any request to exclude a portion of the LA River and its paved tributaries simply in order to avoid our obligations under the Clean Water Act. "

Environmentalists say they will sue to block such a redesignation and want to ensure the law's requirements apply. Waterways or wetlands classified as waters of the U.S. are subject to Clean Water Act programs and permitting requirements, including those for stormwater.

\$6 Billion Price Tag

That means any of the 88 municipalities in Los Angeles County that discharge stormwater to the L.A. River must get a permit. <u>Compliance</u> with this permit means about \$6 billion in spending on infrastructure for the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments to capture stormwater.

It also means monitoring for more than 500 pollutants, constructing recharge basins under parks and parking lots, and installing other green infrastructure methods—such as permeable pavements, rain barrels, and strategically planted vegetation and wetlands—to capture stormwater runoff.

The officials made their pitch to exclude the L.A. channel at a Sept. 19 listening session with the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which have started rewriting the Obama-era 2015 Clean Water Rule.

In 2010, the EPA <u>designated</u> the 51-mile stretch of the mostly concrete-lined Los Angeles River a traditional navigable water on par with the Potomac, Colorado, and Mississippi rivers. That designation triggered the Clean Water Act protections for the river. The river often acts as a drainage ditch for stormwater, a major source of pollution in urban waterways, especially in Los Angeles.

Los Angeles County has been defending its stormwater permit from challenges by environmental groups, including the Natural Resources Defense Council, since 2008 on grounds that the controls within the permit aren't preventing toxic pollutants, debris, and other chemicals from entering its waterways.

The currently stayed <u>2015 water rule</u> (RIN:<u>2040-AF30</u>), which the Trump administration vowed to rescind and rewrite, excluded stormwater collection systems on dry land, but was silent on their status when flood control channels are an integral part of a waterbody like the Los Angeles River.

Scalia-Inspired Rewrite Underway

The agencies under President Donald Trump's directive are rewriting the rule, using as its basis the late U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia's 2006 plurality opinion in Rapanos v. United States.

That opinion said waters with relatively permanent flow should be considered jurisdictional "as opposed to ordinarily dry channels through which water occasionally or intermittently flows," such as dry arroyos in Phoenix and the Los Angeles River, according to these city officials.

The EPA and the Corps have <u>indicated</u> they are considering three options for defining waters with "relatively permanent" flows. These would include streams that:

· flow continuously,

- flow continuously along with those that flow at least three months a year; or
- flow continuously along with those that can be considered such, based on their flow, frequency, or connectivity to physical, biological, and chemical features.

"We would like the EPA to critically look at any and all cement sections of all rivers and tributaries in the Los Angeles area and reconsider WOTUS jurisdiction in light of some of the arguments we have made," Eric Wolf, senior management analyst for the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments, told Bloomberg BNA in a Sept. 21 email following the public forum.

The storm drains underlying the cities, including South Pasadena, that make up the San Gabriel Valley Council empty into boxed channels that lead into the concrete-lined Los Angeles River, where the flow is controlled by the Los Angeles Flood Control District.

"It makes no sense to apply water quality objectives to an engineered channel," Diana Mahmud, South Pasadena's council member and chair of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Government's water policy committee, told the EPA and the Corps.

Wolf said the river still will be protected under California law. The Golden State also is in the process of revising its definition of what waters would be protected under state law just in case the rewritten WOTUS rule doesn't protect them.

While aware of the cities' requests, the board of supervisors for Los Angeles County—which includes the cities that fall within the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments— hasn't taken a position, county spokesman Kerjon Lee told Bloomberg BNA.

"This comment and all other comments received during these webinars are informing the thinking of the Army and the EPA as we work to develop a proposed rule for public comment," an EPA spokeswoman told Bloomberg BNA.

Water Status Mired in Debate

The agency added that it was typical for the agency to receive requests to reconsider the jurisdictional status of waters.

However, Lowell Rothschild, a Clean Water Act attorney in the Austin offices of Bracewell LLP, told Bloomberg BNA that the jurisdictional status of the Los Angeles River and its tributaries has dogged the EPA.

"The question is what would the eventual rule look like and how would the Los Angeles River fare under it," Rothschild told Bloomberg BNA in a Sept. 21 telephone interview.

He said the Scalia opinion would restrict jurisdictional reach based on flow. To the extent the Trump administration proposes a rule based on flow, it's very possible a river like the Los Angeles River—and possibly other water bodies that flow intermittently in the arid West—could be viewed as nonjurisdictional, Rothschild said.

"Clearly, the president would prefer a rule that excludes waters like the Los Angeles River that flow intermittently," he said

WOTUS Can't Overturn Designation

Unlike Rothschild, Sean Hecht, an environmental law professor with University of California-Los Angeles, said the 2010 designation of the L.A. River cannot be overturned by the water rule for several reasons.

A redesignation, he said, would require a rulemaking other than a WOTUS rule rewrite, just as it did in 2010. More importantly, a redesignation of the L.A. River wouldn't change the fact that municipal stormwater will still be regulated under a federal permit because it is being discharged into the Pacific Ocean, which is jurisdictional because it in fact supports navigation, he said.

Hecht also dismissed the cities' claim about the river's seasonal flows, saying the EPA's own analysis showed that there are year-round flows.

The NRDC would oppose any attempt to exclude the L.A. River from Clean Water Act protections, Steve Fleischli, the council's water program director, told Bloomberg BNA.

Fleischli said the cities are trying to skirt their obligations to meet stormwater requirements.

"We will take legal action if [the cities] roll back protections for the river," Fleischli said.

-With assistance from Carolyn Whetzel in Los Angeles

Exxon Touts New Methane Efforts As EPA Pushes Rule Delay

Posted September 25, 2017, 12:48 P.M. ET

By Abby Smith

ExxonMobil Corp. announced new efforts to reduce methane emissions from its facilities, even as the EPA seeks to delay Obama-era pollution limits for new drilling operations in the oil and natural gas sector.

Some environmentalists are hailing ExxonMobil's new program as "real leadership" in a landscape where the Trump administration is working to broadly roll back federal requirements on the oil and gas industry to reduce methane emissions.

The oil and gas giant today announced an "enhanced" program for detection and repair of methane leaks at natural gas facilities operated by its subsidiary XTO Energy Inc. The program includes a commitment to phase out within three years high-emitting devices. It also includes a commitment to personnel training and research initiatives.

"At a time when others are trying to claw back basic protections and make excuses for inaction, this kind of company responsiveness to local community, investor, and advocate concerns is refreshing," Mark Brownstein, vice president in the climate and energy program of the Environmental Defense Fund, said in a statement.

Exxon's announcement comes after the Environmental Protection Agency Sept. 22 sent to the White House its final versions of rules to delay—for at least two years—key requirements of Obama-era methane limits. Many industry trade groups, including the American Petroleum Institute, which represents ExxonMobil, strongly support the delay.

Water Monitoring Workload Rises with Pesticides, Contaminants

Posted September 25, 2017, 12:06 P.M. ET

By <u>Tiffany Stecker</u>

A decade ago, the U.S. Geological Survey tested the nation's streams and aquifers for 83 different pesticides. Today, that number has nearly tripled: 225 pesticides and their byproducts.

Twenty years ago, the environmental research arm of the U.S. government didn't test for pharmaceuticals in water. Today it's a relatively common practice. So is testing for cyanobacteria, a blue-green algae that forms as a result of excessive nitrogen and phosphorus in the water.

These "emerging contaminants" have stressed the workload of USGS's National Water Quality Assessment Program (NAWQA), which collects trend data over decades on contaminants in the nation's streams and wells, as resources remain stagnant.

NAWQA's budget has wavered between \$55 million and \$65 million since 2008. USGS's overall spending has hovered above the \$1 billion mark since that year, and the recently passed appropriations bill in the House would keep funding relatively level, further challenging the service's ability to track trends even as new analytical techniques sharpen monitoring efforts.

Program 'Hasn't Grown in Years'

On the ground, however, scientists said the program's growing demands—and more sophisticated, expensive technology—are putting pressure on scientists and the USGS.

"The program [budget] hasn't grown in years," Jeffrey Fischer, a supervisory hydrologist with USGS's New Jersey Water Science Center, told Bloomberg BNA about his region's work. But NAWQA's analytical needs have grown by leaps and bounds.

USGS is not a regulatory agency, but its science has guided major environmental decisions in the last decade. The agency was among the first to discover traces of methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE)—a gasoline additive to increase octane and a weak carcinogen—in groundwater nationwide. It also sounded the alarm in 2011 over coal tar-based sealcoat, a viscous liquid used in asphalt that contributes significantly to polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) contamination.

Advanced tracking techniques, like methods that can differentiate the source of mercury deposits from a coal-fired power plant or metal mining, are being deployed. Optical sensors can correlate different wavelengths of light with the levels of dissolved nitrates or algal pigments. The cost is expected to come down eventually, but at this point the purchase and installation of these sensors can run close to \$100,000 per site.

Today, USGS is detecting contaminants, or "constituents," at tiny concentrations. Scientists are not looking for the presence of contaminants alone, but are looking at how those contaminants travel and how long they last in groundwater.

Identifying contaminants at smaller concentrations means scientists are finding more and more compounds in the water.

"We're detecting all these compounds no one knew existed," Fischer said. "Parts per million doesn't mean anything to anyone anymore; it's parts per billion, parts per trillion."

As a result of more sensitive methods of detection, USGS is adding more contaminants to its "schedules," the list of a type of pollutants the agency tests for in streams and wells that undergo the same type of testing.

With inflation, "flat funding translates to a cut," Tim Williams, deputy executive director for the Water Environment Federation, told Bloomberg BNA. "If the program is not adequately funded, you run the risk of not having a true national monitoring program."

Wells Closed

On a drizzly September afternoon, Fischer and three other USGS scientists set up a makeshift tent and rudimentary testing equipment to collect samples of groundwater from a 40-foot well near the college town of Glassboro, N.J. When the well was drilled more than 20 years ago, the brick homes and well-manicured lawns in the surrounding areas were rapidly replacing farmers' fields.

The site is in a coastal plain geologic formation that covers the southern half of New Jersey. It's part of a network of 30 wells to help USGS track how the rural-to-suburban revolution here affects the water underneath. Today, scientists still find traces of the pesticides sprayed on the vegetables from farmland in the groundwater.

The additional demands have led to the program cutting back on its sampling of wells. In New Jersey, the scientists stopped testing a network of five wells several years ago to accommodate the resource shortfall.

"It does limit your ability somewhat" to analyze trends over time, Fischer said.

Hot-Button Pesticides Hard to Test

Lisa Nowell, a Sacramento, Calif.-based USGS research chemist who studies pesticides in streams, said her field of study is constantly evolving.

"Pesticide use changes," Nowell told Bloomberg BNA. New pesticides are registered every year, others are taken off the market, and economic and scientific advances dictate how much farmers will use.

The methods for analyzing them also are complicated. Scientists like broad-spectrum methods that can detect several different pesticides in one sample, but some of the most common and hot-button chemicals—like glyphosate, the main ingredient in Monsanto Co.'s Roundup herbicide—are not easily detected in these broad-spectrum tests.

The process to decide which contaminants should be a priority starts with a USGS working group. The group decides which emerging chemicals of products should be of interest to the scientific agency. From there, the scientists whittle down the number based on substances that were previously included in USGS studies or have been identified by other agencies or organizations as being of concern to health or present in the environment.

Limited Resources

One of the issues with NAWQA, Williams added, is it was never authorized by Congress, meaning there's never any guarantee that it will receive a set level of appropriations year after year until the authorization expires.

Williams spent years climbing the Capitol's steps to convince lawmakers that USGS's water programs needed more funding.

"Everybody in Congress...was very supportive of the program, but it was always a challenge to increase funding because of other priorities and what they would characterize as limited resources," he said.

Partnerships With States

As a result, much of USGS's work on the ground is partially funded by states and other organizations. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection funds a portion of the

New Jersey work through USGS's cooperative program. In exchange, the state uses USGS's monitoring network for testing water and works with USGS on studies.

These cooperative agreements in state USGS offices have helped the agency survive. But as landscapes change and chemicals come and go, the scientists' are acutely aware of the need to maintain the continuity of the program.

Fischer looks around at the community near Glassboro, where crop pesticides have been replaced by household fertilizers and weedkillers.

"If you see a nice green lawn," he said. "There's probably fertilizers and pesticides around."

"That's why we're here," his colleague, hydrologist Eric Jacobsen, added.

Ameren to Add \$1 Billion of Wind Farms in the Midwest by 2020

Posted September 25, 2017, 01:34 P.M. ET

By Brian Eckhouse

Ameren Corp., the St. Louis-based utility holding company, is planning to add about \$1 billion of new wind-power plants by 2020 as part of a broader plan to reduce carbon emissions.

At least 700 megawatts of wind farms will be built in Missouri and neighboring states with U.S.-made turbines, Ameren said in a Sept. 25 statement.

The move comes as the company shifts away from coal-fired power plants and falling prices make wind more competitive.

"Because of significant advancement in technology, harnessing wind is less expensive than other forms of new generation," Michael Moehn, president of Ameren Missouri, said in the statement.

Wind-turbine prices in the U.S. have fallen to \$830,000 a megawatt, below the global average of almost \$1 million, according to Bloomberg New Energy Finance. Because the company expects to complete the projects by 2020, they will probably qualify for a federal tax credit for wind power, Alex Morgan, a New York-based analyst at BNEF, said in an email Sept. 25.

Ameren Missouri, which is targeting a 35 percent reduction in carbon emissions from 2005 levels by 2030, also plans to add 100 megawatts of solar power over the next 10 years, with 50 megawatts expected online by 2025. The company announced in May plans to build as much as 1 megawatt of solar capacity at St. Louis Lambert International Airport that's expected to be complete in 2018.

It plans to retire more than half of its coal-fired generating capacity, including the Meramec Energy Center in St. Louis County by the end of 2022.

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U.S., Mexico on Verge of New Colorado River Water Pact

Posted September 25, 2017, 7:02 A.M. ET

By Tripp Baltz

An agreement amending the longstanding treaty between the U.S. and Mexico on management of the Colorado River will continue the practice of water shortage sharing, but also fund new conservation and environmental programs, and aim to reduce the risk of ruinous drought.

The two nations are tentatively scheduled to execute the agreement—Minute 323, an amendment to a 1944 water treaty—on Sept. 26 in Mexico's Ciudad Juarez. Minute 323 will govern water flows in the Colorado River and other water management issues by extending an existing binational agreement, Minute 319, which was set to expire at the end of 2017.

The deal shows how both countries consider water important enough to set it apart from tensions that have flared during President Donald Trump's administration over immigration and building a border wall, Stephen Mumme, professor of political science at Colorado State University, told Bloomberg BNA Sept. 22.

Both sides were interested in continuing Minute 319, which describes the operation of the river system as a partnership between the two countries. The newly negotiated Minute 323 specifically defines reservoir management strategies so Mexico shares in river shortages and surpluses through 2026.

Conservation Funding

In return, Minute 323 will authorize \$31.5 million in U.S. funding—slightly more than half of it from the Bureau of Reclamation—for pilot water programs in Mexico that would generate some 229,100 acre-feet of conservation. About 70,000 acre-feet of the conserved amount is designated for environmental purposes in Mexico, about 50,000 acre-feet will benefit the Colorado River system, and 27,275 acre-feet each will be assigned to four U.S. partner agencies.

The average U.S. household uses about one-half an acre foot of water per year.

The agreement also will allow Mexico to continue to store water in Lake Mead, the storage reservoir for the three Lower Colorado River Basin states of Arizona, California and Nevada, according to the Imperial Irrigation District, one of the four domestic water districts involved in the negotiations.

It also will provide for a potentially larger drought response partnership with water users through the Colorado River basin states drought contingency plan and Mexico's binational water scarcity contingency plan, the district said.

Conservation, Environmental Programs

Additional components of the deal include binational cooperative conservation projects, environmental programs, salinity management efforts and the opportunity for additional conservation and desalination projects in Mexico, the district said.

The two national governments are expected to make the signed agreement public Sept. 27. Until then an embargo by the State Department precludes the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission from providing additional details, Lori Kuczmanski, spokeswoman for the section, told Bloomberg BNA.

She said the commission, the agency that applies the boundary and water treaties of the U.S. and Mexico and settles disputes that arise in their application, was working to get all domestic approvals signed. "We're very, very close," she said.

U.S. Partner Agencies

In addition to the Imperial Irrigation District, the three other partnering U.S. water agencies are the Southern Nevada Water Authority, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, and the Central Arizona Water Conservation District. The IID Board approved its domestic agreements to Minute 323 Sept. 12.

The Colorado River Board of California adopted a resolution Sept. 13 affirming the primary elements of Minute 323 and acknowledging the need for continued board participation in its implementation.

Food Safety Activists Oppose Spraying Washington Oyster Beds

Posted September 25, 2017, 02:43 P.M. ET

By Paul Shukovsky

Shellfish growers in Washington's <u>Willapa Bay</u> and nearby Gray's Harbor are facing opposition from food activists and environmentalists over their proposal to spray a pesticide on tideflats to prevent losing up to 80 percent of their harvest. The growers are seeking a permit to spray imidacloprid, a neonicotinoid, on tideflats to control oyster pests called burrowing shrimp, which disrupt the muddy habitat and cause oysters to sink and suffocate. Use of the pesticide in Willapa Bay—where a mix of salt marsh, muddy tidelands, and freshwater wetlands provide habitat for over 200 bird species—stokes concerns among environmentalists that the chemical will kill a variety of insects and crustaceans that the birds and fish, such as salmon, rely upon for sustenance. The bay is the source of some 25 percent of the nation's oysters.

"This neurotoxin will kill all the invertebrates that it touches," Center for Food Safety staff attorney Amy van Saun told Bloomberg BNA Sept. 21. "We think there needs to be an option for the oyster growers that doesn't involve a neurotoxin, especially on food that we are going to be eating."

The center and other environmental and conservation organizations plan to submit comments on a draft <u>supplemental environmental impact statement</u> now under consideration by the Washington State Department of Ecology. Agency spokeswoman Jessica Payne said the document could lead to the issuance of a permit to spray by the end of the year.

The state so far has not proposed any action or decided whether it will issue a state waste discharge permit under the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System to allow the spraying, Payne told Bloomberg BNA Sept. 21.

Breaks Down Rapidly

The growers assert they will be using very small amounts of the pesticide, which then breaks down rapidly. "The amount of imidacloprid the growers will be using is not potent enough to kill burrowing shrimp or most non-target species," said Amalia Walton, an attorney with the Seattle office of Miller Nash Graham & Dunn, who represents some 20 growers. The treatment works by immobilizing the ghost shrimp in their burrows, which eventually collapse, smothering the shrimp, she said in a Sept. 21 email.

The "amount of imidacloprid used breaks down in as little as 24 hours, and oysters would only be planted on the beds long after the compound has dissipated," Walton said. Most individual beds would be treated only once every four or five years, she said.

This is the second time the growers have sought to use imidacloprid. An environmental analysis in 2015 led the Department of Ecology to issue a permit to spray, but the growers asked to withdraw the permit after there was widespread negative media coverage and "very notable"

chefs in the Seattle area said they would not serve oysters out of the Willapa Bay area," Payne said.

Head of Pesticide Trade Group to Step Down

Posted September 25, 2017, 03:52 P.M. ET

By Tiffany Stecker

The CEO of the largest trade association for pesticides is stepping down next year.

Jay Vroom, who helmed CropLife America for nearly 30 years, announced his retirement at the organization's annual meeting Sept. 25. His last day will be near the end of 2018, CLA spokeswoman Genevieve O'Sullivan told Bloomberg BNA.

"I cannot begin to express in words all the pride and gratitude I have for the many friends, coworkers and professional allies I have had the privilege to work with at CLA and in my earlier career," Vroom told attendees at the meeting in Dana Point, Calif.

CropLife's board of directors includes representatives from Monsanto Co, Dow AgroSciences LLC, BASF, and other major pesticide manufacturers.

Vroom began his career at CLA in 1988. He has represented the organization through five farm bills, the 1996 Food Quality Protection Act that required health-based standards for pesticides in food, and the more recent application of the Endangered Species Act to the pesticide registration process.

He said he plans to stay involved in agricultural issues after retirement and to spend time on his farm in Illinois.

Funding Tesla Ticks Off Automakers Needing Electric Car Credits

Posted September 25, 2017, 7:16 A.M. ET

By John Lippert and Ryan Beene

Tesla Inc. has generated nearly \$1 billion in revenue the last five years from an unlikely source: Rival automakers. Needless to say, the other companies aren't happy.

California requires that automakers sell electric and other non-polluting vehicles in proportion to their market share. If the manufacturers don't sell enough of them, they have to purchase credits from competitors to make up the difference. Tesla, which exclusively sells battery-powered models, sold \$302.3 million in regulatory credits last year alone.

"It really makes them mad that Tesla got so much of a boost out of being the only purely electric car manufacturer out there," Mary Nichols, the chair of the California Air Resources Board, said in an interview Sept. 22 at Bloomberg's headquarters in New York. "In effect, they helped to finance this upstart company which now has all the glamour."

China and the European Union -- two of the world's biggest auto markets -- are considering mandates and credit systems similar to California's. For all the flack the state has taken from traditional carmakers for how its benefited Tesla, Chief Executive Officer Elon Musk has also been a critic.

Musk, 46, last year said the Air Resources Board was being "incredibly weak" and called its standards "pathetically low." Rules should be tougher and the credits should be worth more, according to the CEO.

"Nobody's happy," Nichols said. "That's my mantra."

--With assistance from Dana Hull.

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German Coal May Be Another Loser as Merkel Pushed Toward Greens

Posted September 25, 2017, 8:19 A.M. ET

By Brian Parkin and Mathew Carr

Coal's future in Europe's biggest economy may take center stage when German Chancellor Angela Merkel tries to form a new government after losing support in national elections.

Voters weary with Germany's so-called Grand Coalition between Merkel's Christian Democratic-bloc and the Social Democratic Party cast their ballots elsewhere. While Merkel still came out atop Sunday's poll, her potential partners in a new government narrowed to the Green Party and Free Democrats, both of which have different outlooks for coal.

"What's sure is that campaign pledges on climate protection and a faster phase-out of coal power are not negotiable," said Oliver Krischer, the deputy parliamentary chairman for the Green Party, in a phone interview on Sept. 22.

The Greens were the main force behind the introduction of clean power subsidies the last time they were in the national government from 1998 to 2005. On Sept. 24 they won 9 percent of the vote and could return to power by joining forces with Merkel's bloc and the FDP. Social Democrats have ruled themselves out of government after their worst result since 1949.

Still, energy and environment policy differences will make negotiations for a coalition government "difficult," according to a Barclays research note on Sept. 22, which cited opposition among Merkel's supporters to shuttering coal plants. The FDP campaigned on economic competitiveness being paramount in energy policy.

High Hurdles

"Very high policy hurdles separate us from the Greens -- not just on energy," said Frank Schaeffler, who's seeking a return to parliament for the Free Democrats as a finance spokesman, in an interview late Sept 24. "The divisions are not insurmountable but each party has its red lines -- the challenge will be to see just how robust those lines really are."

Both the Greens and the FDP expect invitations to enter exploratory coalition talks with Merkel, in a process that could take weeks or months before a new government emerges.

The Greens want to shape climate policy in government "but not at any price," Krischer said.

Hard coal and lignite plants generated about 40 percent of all Germany's power last year and about a third of all its carbon dioxide pollution. During the election campaign, Merkel eschewed any talk on a phase-out date for coal.

The Greens campaigned to end coal power by 2030 -- a step already envisaged by city states like Berlin. They also want to shut 20 of the most polluting coal plants by 2020 to help the nation meet its carbon dioxide reduction targets.

Efforts to cut emissions have faltered in Germany, despite the highest rate of renewable energy use in Europe. Persistent coal use means Germany is set to reduce carbon dioxide as much as 31 percent by 2020 rather than the 40 percent it targeted, according to Berlin-based environmental think tank Agora Energiewende.

"We will find ways to achieve our 40 percent target by 2020 -- that I can promise you," said Merkel in a Sept. 14 campaign speech that suggested a willingness to cap coal's future in Germany.

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India's Modi Starts \$2.5 Billion Plan to Grow Electricity Access

Posted September 25, 2017, 02:17 P.M. ET

By Rajesh Kumar Singh

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a 163.2 billion-rupees (\$2.5 billion) program to ensure electricity for all households.

The program will help poor people get electricity connections at no cost, Modi said, adding that his government is making efforts to provide power to about 3,000 unelectrified villages. Power Minister R. K. Singh said the nation will aim to complete electrification of all households ahead of a March 2019 deadline.

The announcement comes amid concerns over a slowing economy, which has led the government to consider measures to boost growth. Modi came to power in 2014 with popular promises such as job creation and electricity for all and will be tested on the pledges in 2019, when he faces re-election.

"Power for all is a very ambitious plan and the prime minister knows the political gains it can bring if he can pull it off," said Sandeep Shastri, a political analyst and a pro vice chancellor at Jain University in Bengaluru. "So, when he announces schemes to connect all households, beyond a shadow of doubt he has the 2019 elections in mind."

Nearly 304 million Indians don't have <u>access to electricity</u>, accounting for about a quarter of the global population living without power, according to NITI Aayog, a government think-tank. Several of these are in rural areas, where state power retailers are reluctant to supply electricity as returns fall below the investment made in infrastructure.

-With assistance from Bibhudatta Pradhan.

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Dubai Introduces Incentives to Spur Electric Vehicle Market

Posted September 25, 2017, 01:39 P.M. ET

By Matthew Kalman

Electric-car drivers in Dubai will enjoy free parking, recharging, vehicle registration, and toll exemptions until the end of 2019, the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy announced.

The incentives are designed "to encourage the public use of electric vehicles in Dubai to help protect the environment," said Mohammed Al Tayer, vice chairman of the energy council and managing director/chief executive officer of the Dubai Electricity and Water Authority.

The move is part of the Dubai Green Mobility initiative to motivate organizations to use more hybrid and electric vehicles to help reduce carbon emissions in ground transportation, which is the second-largest greenhouse gas emitter in Dubai, according to Al Tayer.

Additions to Government Fleet

At least 10 percent of the new cars that Dubai's government institutions buy between 2016 and 2020 will be electric or hybrid, helping to raise the proportion of such vehicles to 2 percent by 2020 and 10 percent by 2030.

"This supports the Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050 for Dubai to have the lowest carbon footprint in the world by 2050, and the Dubai Carbon Abatement Strategy to cut carbon emissions by 16 percent by 2021," Al Tayer added.

Abu Dabi currently has 100 public electric vehicle charging stations, with 100 more planned in 2018. Electric or hybrid cars are distributed by Tesla, BMW, Renault, and Toyota. The sector grew by 30 percent from 2014 to 2016, Al Tayer said. The incentives could save the average driver commuting daily to Dubai's business district, charging and parking for free and using the Salik toll gates more than 10,000 dirhams (about \$2,722) each year, said Nabeel Alzaka, cofounder and CEO of Surface Mobility Consultants in Dubai.

"There is an appetite for electric vehicles, particularly now that car manufacturers are becoming a little bit more inventive," Alzaka said by phone Sept. 24, noting that some electric models, like the BMW i8 now in service with the Dubai police, matched in looks and performance the highend supercars popular in the Emirates.

"These cars are as fast as Lamborghinis and Ferraris. They are as glitzy and as glamorous," he said. "The car manufacturers are heading toward providing those fast supercars the Dubai market will want. Will that ever eradicate Ferraris and Lamborghinis? I don't think so. People will still want to have the gas-guzzlers and the sound of the engines but I think you'll find people will swap their petrol cars for a nice, shiny, sparkling electric vehicle."

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Daily Environment Report for EPA

Message

From: Morning Energy [morningenergy@politico.com]

Sent: 8/25/2017 2:05:31 PM

To: Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]

Subject: POLITICO's Morning Energy: Texas braces for fearsome Hurricane Harvey — Report: Three monuments targeted by

Zinke — Four parts of DOE's grid study with legs

By Anthony Adragna | 08/25/2017 10:00 AM EDT

With help from Annie Snider and Ben Lefebvre

HARVEY MESSES WITH TEXAS: Hurricane Harvey is closing in on the Texas coast, with the bullseye painted right on Corpus Christi. The storm will be the first to hit the Texas coast since the Category 4 Hurricane Ike slammed into Houston in September 2008. Harvey looks likely to reach at least Category 3 by the time it makes landfall early Saturday, according to forecasts. It has already caused BP, Exxon Mobil, Anadarko and other oil companies to evacuate their deepwater rigs. BSEE estimated the shutdowns took 10 percent of the Gulf of Mexico's oil production offline as of mid-day on Thursday, and that number is only likely to be higher when the agency's next bulletin comes out later today. Harvey will also throw a wrench into U.S. oil exports, much of which leaves the country via Corpus.

Harvey could prove to be the first big test of FEMA's new head, Brock Long, who won Senate confirmation in June. FEMA set up an Incident Support Base at near Seguin, Texas, complete with supplies, a spokeswoman said, but so far there have been no requests for support.

Bolstering the case for the Ike Dike? The petrochemical and refining operations around Galveston and the Houston Ship Channel aren't expected to be at the epicenter of this storm, as of Thursday's forecast, but emergency planners there have been worrying ever since Hurricane Ike inflicted \$29.5 billion in damages and killed 74 people in 2008. Texas politicians and business leaders have been pushing the idea of a massive seawall to protect Galveston and Houston, and in April asked President Donald Trump for \$15 billion for the project. Hurricane Harvey could help them continue to make the case as they fight for federal funding. But environmental groups are wary of the effort, dubbed the "Ike Dike," arguing it could hugely alter the salinity patterns and block key fish species in Galveston Bay, where millions of dollars, including money related to the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill, have been spent on environmental restoration.

What about New Orleans? A dozen years after Hurricane Katrina ravaged the city, the Big Easy may not be prepared to handle heavy rains this time around with three of five turbines that power drainage pumps for the low-lying city not working, the New Orleans Advocate <u>reports</u>. In addition, 15 of the city's 120 water pumps are offline as the city braces for between five and 10 inches of rain.

Reupping: How bad can it get for Houston? This bad.

TGIF EVERYBODY! I'm your host Anthony Adragna, and Parametrix's Dwight Miller correctly identified Tonga as the country that once issued banana-shaped stamps. For today: Who is the oldest still-living former U.S. governor? Send your tips, energy gossip and comments to aadragna@politico.com, or follow us on Twitter aAnthonyAdragna, aMorning Energy, and aPOLITICOPro.

PROGRAMMING NOTE: Morning Energy will not publish from Aug. 28-Sept. 4. Our next Morning Energy newsletter will publish on Sept. 5. Please continue to follow Pro Energy issues here.

REPORT: THREE MONUMENTS IN BULLS EYE: Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke didn't make public his report on what to do with 22 national monuments under review, but his recommendations call for shrinking three of the most controversial sites - Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante monuments in Utah and Cascade-Siskiyou in Oregon, the Washington Post <u>reports</u>, citing "multiple individuals briefed on the decision." Remember a final decision to reduce the size of any of the national monuments will be almost immediately challenged by environmental and conservation groups, as well as sympathetic attorneys general.

Groups slammed the decision by the Interior Department not to release the draft report, and the complaints grew louder throughout the day Thursday. "This summary is not transparent and this is not how our government should do business," Sen. Tom Udall (D-N.M.) said in a statement. "The American people have the right to see his entire report. A proposal to strip protections from public lands should be made public immediately," Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) added in her own statement. The Center for Biological Diversity announced it had already filed a FOIA request for the document.

One monument spared: A source briefed on Zinke's decision told the <u>Bangor Daily News</u> the draft recommends keeping the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument intact while making "some changes on allowable uses." That goes against the wishes of bombastic Maine Gov. Paul LePage, who urged Congress and the Trump administration to <u>undo the designation</u>.

READY, STEADY, CAN DOE GO? It's unclear whether any of the recommendations from Energy Secretary's Rick Perry much-anticipated grid study have legs, but that answer may depend on how much weight the administration throws behind them, Pro's Darius Dixon reports. "If these recommendations, as a suite, are something that the administration really wants to do, someone in the White House is going to have to quarterback that," said Greg Gershuny, who served as chief of staff in DOE's Energy Policy and Systems Analysis office during the Obama administration. "How engaged Perry is and how many times a week he's going to the Hill and talking to other agency heads is going to tell us a lot about how serious they are about this."

Four issues Darius suggests watching: Efforts to have FERC "expedite" its work to reformulate how electricity markets pay power generators; research and development dollars toward grid reliability, which the Trump administration's first budget suggested cutting deeply; a push to speed and reduce the cost of "licensing, relicensing, and permitting of grid infrastructure" and calls for EPA to revisit its New Source Review permitting program that requires power plants to tighten emissions controls when they upgrade. A caution: Several of those issues have proven to be thorny matters for agencies to address over several administrations.

API SOUNDS WARNING ON NAFTA: In an op-ed published Thursday, the American Petroleum Institute's Jack Gerard urged the Trump administration not to tinker with key energy trade provisions as it worked to negotiate NAFTA. "By maintaining successful provisions on zero tariffs, market access, trade liberalization and strong investment protection, the Trump administration can modernize NAFTA without jeopardizing energy trade flows," he wrote. Among the most-watched provisions, Gerard voiced strong support for preserving the investor-state dispute settlement provision, which he said is "a neutral arbitration system for enforcing these protections, safeguarding American investments."

ACCESS DENIED: EPA leadership has adopted a new social media policy that will see employees barred from accessing many popular sites, according to an email from the agency's human resources office obtained by ME. "Due to recent events in the news we are going to start blocking many of the popular social media sites for employees who do not need them for justified, business purposes," it says. Employees must now complete a mandatory survey on their behavior before a default block takes effect.

MORE GROUPS OPPOSE CLOVIS: Dozens of environmental and food groups are out this morning with a <u>letter</u> urging senators to oppose Sam Clovis' nomination to be USDA's chief scientist. "Without competent, science-based leadership, the USDA will be unable to protect our environment and help thousands of farmers

and their communities adapt to these worsening burdens," the letter, led by Friends of the Earth and the Health, Environment, Agriculture, Labor Food Alliance, says. The groups argue the nomination of Clovis, who lacks any formal scientific training, also violates the law.

REPORT: DEMOCRAT BACKS BLM MOVE WEST: Sen. Michael Bennet became the latest Colorado politician to back moving three federal agencies - the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - to the Denver area, according to a report in Western Wire, a project of the Western Energy Alliance. "I think anything we can get out of Washington, D.C. and into Colorado, I'm for," the Democrat said. Republican Sen. Cory Gardner and Gov. John Hickenlooper are among the other proponents of the move west.

WHAT A MESS! Even as he takes pot shots at congressional leadership, President Donald Trump is trying to set up a meeting with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, House Speaker Paul Ryan, Minority Leader Chuck Schumer and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi in the near future to stave off a federal default and a government shutdown, POLITICO's Kyle Cheney and Seung Min Kim report. Ryan predicted Thursday that Congress would pass a debt ceiling increase and said there are "a lot of options" about how to structure the legislation. He also said a short-term government funding bill would likely be needed to keep the lights on through December, though there's no guarantee Trump would sign that if it doesn't include border wall funding.

ZINKE'S STILL ON THE MOVE: He may be facing heat over his private national monument report, but Zinke travels to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the Blue Ridge Parkway today to commemorate the 101st anniversary of the founding of the National Park Service.

ME's off next week, but Energy Secretary Rick Perry travels to Astana, Kazakhstan on Aug. 28 for a "Future Energy" expo along with Rep. <u>Kevin Cramer</u> and Overseas Private Investment Corporation CEO Ray Washburne, among others.

CALIFORNIA REPUBLICANS OUST LEADER OVER CLIMATE VOTE: California Assembly Republicans voted unanimously Thursday behind closed doors to oust Chad Mayes as their leader following his vote last month in favor of bipartisan climate change legislation, the Mercury News reports. "The Republican caucus just elected a new Republican leader," Mayes announced on the floor following the 25-member caucus' vote. The new leader of the bloc, farmer Brian Dahle, voted against the extension of the state's cap and trade program.

MAIL CALL! N.H. LAWMAKERS SEEK UPDATE ON WATER CONTAMINATION: New Hampshire's two Democratic senators - <u>Jeanne Shaheen</u> and <u>Maggie Hassan</u> - and Rep. <u>Carol Shea-Porter</u> sent a <u>letter</u> to the Air Force requesting an update on efforts to decontaminate water supplies fouled with perfluorinated chemicals at the former Pease Air Force Base. They sought a public meeting as well as an opportunity for local elected officials to receive an update.

REPORT: HOW TO GET HYDROPOWER DEPLOYED FASTER: The R Street Institute released <u>a report</u> Thursday detailing a series of changes to the hydropower licensing process that it said would speed deployment of the renewable power source. "Congress and the administration should prioritize the reduction of uncertainties and delays in hydropower licensure, which largely stem from duplicative processes, poor dispute resolution and lack of schedule discipline," the report said. Among the top suggestions are making FERC the sole federal decision-maker and studying the possibility of privatizing federally owned dams.

NO MORE HOLDING ON RENEWABLES: Green America launched a <u>new campaign</u> Thursday urging AT&T and Verizon to publicly commit to fuel their operations with 100 percent renewable energy by 2025. "AT&T and Verizon both recognize the urgency of climate change and the need for action, now we need to see that concern translate into commitments to purchase of wind and solar power," Beth Porter, climate campaigns

director at Green America, said in a statement. Both companies are currently using less than two percent renewable energy to power their massive servers, according to Green America.

RECORDS SOUGHT OVER AUTO REVIEW: The Center for Biological Diversity filed an <u>open records</u> request Thursday seeking copies of all communications between representatives of the auto industry and EPA and NHTSA over the federal reassessment of vehicle fuel economy standards. "The public deserves to know the truth about whether backroom deals are influencing the agency," Vera Pardee, a senior attorney with the group, said in a statement.

TROLL SO HARD: 314 Action, a new group hoping to get scientists elected to public office, <u>tweeted</u> a picture of several copies of "Environmental Science for Dummies" that they sent to EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt at the agency's headquarters.

NEW DAY, NEW WEBSITE: The House Energy and Commerce Committee unveiled a shiny new website Thursday that includes, among other things, an improved search system. Take a glance <u>here</u>.

QUICK HITS

- Texas oil industry boasts of near-infinite supply but what if the world stops buying? Houston Chronicle
- Billionaire Carl Icahn Has Lost More Money This Year Than Almost Anyone in the World. <u>Time</u>.
- Small mining company seeks to kill Ironwood Monument designation. <u>Tuscon.com</u>.
- Duke pipeline plan delayed over environmental concerns. Cincinatti.com.
- China's Solar Appetite Eats Into India's Effort on Clean Energy. Bloomberg.

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Sent: 8/25/2017 9:44:12 AM

To: Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]

Subject: Morning Energy: Texas braces for fearsome Hurricane Harvey — Report: Three monuments targeted by Zinke —

Four parts of DOE's grid study with legs

By Anthony Adragna | 08/25/2017 05:41 AM EDT

With help from Annie Snider and Ben Lefebvre

HARVEY MESSES WITH TEXAS: Hurricane Harvey is closing in on the Texas coast, with the bullseye painted right on Corpus Christi. The storm will be the first to hit the Texas coast since the Category 4 Hurricane Ike slammed into Houston in September 2008. Harvey looks likely to reach at least Category 3 by the time it makes landfall early Saturday, according to forecasts. It has already caused BP, Exxon Mobil, Anadarko and other oil companies to evacuate their deepwater rigs. BSEE estimated the shutdowns took 10 percent of the Gulf of Mexico's oil production offline as of mid-day on Thursday, and that number is only likely to be higher when the agency's next bulletin comes out later today. Harvey will also throw a wrench into U.S. oil exports, much of which leaves the country via Corpus.

Harvey could prove to be the first big test of FEMA's new head, Brock Long, who won Senate confirmation in June. FEMA set up an Incident Support Base at near Seguin, Texas, complete with supplies, a spokeswoman said, but so far there have been no requests for support.

Bolstering the case for the Ike Dike? The petrochemical and refining operations around Galveston and the Houston Ship Channel aren't expected to be at the epicenter of this storm, as of Thursday's forecast, but emergency planners there have been worrying ever since Hurricane Ike inflicted \$29.5 billion in damages and killed 74 people in 2008. Texas politicians and business leaders have been pushing the idea of a massive seawall to protect Galveston and Houston, and in April asked President Donald Trump for \$15 billion for the project. Hurricane Harvey could help them continue to make the case as they fight for federal funding. But environmental groups are wary of the effort, dubbed the "Ike Dike," arguing it could hugely alter the salinity patterns and block key fish species in Galveston Bay, where millions of dollars, including money related to the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill, have been spent on environmental restoration.

What about New Orleans? A dozen years after Hurricane Katrina ravaged the city, the Big Easy may not be prepared to handle heavy rains this time around with three of five turbines that power drainage pumps for the low-lying city not working, the New Orleans Advocate reports. In addition, 15 of the city's 120 water pumps are offline as the city braces for between five and 10 inches of rain.

Reupping: How bad can it get for Houston? This bad.

TGIF EVERYBODY! I'm your host Anthony Adragna, and Parametrix's Dwight Miller correctly identified Tonga as the country that once issued banana-shaped stamps. For today: Who is the oldest still-living former U.S. governor? Send your tips, energy gossip and comments to aadragna@politico.com, or follow us on Twitter aAnthonyAdragna, aMorning Energy, and aPOLITICOPro.

PROGRAMMING NOTE: Morning Energy will not publish from Aug. 28-Sept. 4. Our next Morning Energy newsletter will publish on Sept. 5. Please continue to follow Pro Energy issues here.

REPORT: THREE MONUMENTS IN BULLS EYE: Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke didn't make public his report on what to do with 22 national monuments under review, but his recommendations call for shrinking three of the most controversial sites — Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante monuments in Utah and Cascade-Siskiyou in Oregon, the Washington Post <u>reports</u>, citing "multiple individuals briefed on the decision." Remember a final decision to reduce the size of any of the national monuments will be almost immediately challenged by environmental and conservation groups, as well as sympathetic attorneys general.

Groups slammed the decision by the Interior Department not to release the draft report, and the complaints grew louder throughout the day Thursday. "This summary is not transparent and this is not how our government should do business," Sen. Tom Udall (D-N.M.) said in a statement. "The American people have the right to see his entire report. A proposal to strip protections from public lands should be made public immediately," Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) added in her own statement. The Center for Biological Diversity announced it had already filed a FOIA request for the document.

One monument spared: A source briefed on Zinke's decision told the <u>Bangor Daily News</u> the draft recommends keeping the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument intact while making "some changes on allowable uses." That goes against the wishes of bombastic Maine Gov. Paul LePage, who urged Congress and the Trump administration to <u>undo the designation</u>.

READY, STEADY, CAN DOE GO? It's unclear whether any of the recommendations from Energy Secretary's Rick Perry much-anticipated grid study have legs, but that answer may depend on how much weight the administration throws behind them, Pro's Darius Dixon reports. "If these recommendations, as a suite, are something that the administration really wants to do, someone in the White House is going to have to quarterback that," said Greg Gershuny, who served as chief of staff in DOE's Energy Policy and Systems Analysis office during the Obama administration. "How engaged Perry is and how many times a week he's going to the Hill and talking to other agency heads is going to tell us a lot about how serious they are about this."

Four issues Darius suggests watching: Efforts to have FERC "expedite" its work to reformulate how electricity markets pay power generators; research and development dollars toward grid reliability, which the Trump administration's first budget suggested cutting deeply; a push to speed and reduce the cost of "licensing, relicensing, and permitting of grid infrastructure" and calls for EPA to revisit its New Source Review permitting program that requires power plants to tighten emissions controls when they upgrade. A caution: Several of those issues have proven to be thorny matters for agencies to address over several administrations.

API SOUNDS WARNING ON NAFTA: In <u>an op-ed</u> published Thursday, the American Petroleum Institute's Jack Gerard urged the Trump administration not to tinker with key energy trade provisions as it worked to negotiate NAFTA. "By maintaining successful provisions on zero tariffs, market access, trade liberalization and strong investment protection, the Trump administration can modernize NAFTA without jeopardizing energy trade flows," he wrote. Among the most-watched provisions, Gerard voiced strong support for preserving the investor-state dispute settlement provision, which he said is "a neutral arbitration system for enforcing these protections, safeguarding American investments."

ACCESS DENIED: EPA leadership has adopted a new social media policy that will see employees barred from accessing many popular sites, according to an email from the agency's human resources office obtained by ME. "Due to recent events in the news we are going to start blocking many of the popular social media sites for employees who do not need them for justified, business purposes," it says. Employees must now complete a mandatory survey on their behavior before a default block takes effect.

MORE GROUPS OPPOSE CLOVIS: Dozens of environmental and food groups are out this morning with <u>a letter</u> urging senators to oppose Sam Clovis' nomination to be USDA's chief scientist. "Without competent, science-based leadership, the USDA will be unable to protect our environment and help thousands of farmers

and their communities adapt to these worsening burdens," the letter, led by Friends of the Earth and the Health, Environment, Agriculture, Labor Food Alliance, says. The groups argue the nomination of Clovis, who lacks any formal scientific training, also violates the law.

REPORT: DEMOCRAT BACKS BLM MOVE WEST: Sen. Michael Bennet became the latest Colorado politician to back moving three federal agencies — the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service — to the Denver area, according to a report in Western Wire, a project of the Western Energy Alliance. "I think anything we can get out of Washington, D.C. and into Colorado, I'm for," the Democrat said. Republican Sen. Cory Gardner and Gov. John Hickenlooper are among the other proponents of the move west.

WHAT A MESS! Even as he takes pot shots at congressional leadership, President Donald Trump is trying to set up a meeting with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, House Speaker Paul Ryan, Minority Leader Chuck Schumer and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi in the near future to stave off a federal default and a government shutdown, POLITICO's Kyle Cheney and Seung Min Kim report. Ryan predicted Thursday that Congress would pass a debt ceiling increase and said there are "a lot of options" about how to structure the legislation. He also said a short-term government funding bill would likely be needed to keep the lights on through December, though there's no guarantee Trump would sign that if it doesn't include border wall funding.

ZINKE'S STILL ON THE MOVE: He may be facing heat over his private national monument report, but Zinke travels to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the Blue Ridge Parkway today to commemorate the 101st anniversary of the founding of the National Park Service.

ME's off next week, but Energy Secretary Rick Perry travels to Astana, Kazakhstan on Aug. 28 for a "Future Energy" expo along with Rep. <u>Kevin Cramer</u> and Overseas Private Investment Corporation CEO Ray Washburne, among others.

CALIFORNIA REPUBLICANS OUST LEADER OVER CLIMATE VOTE: California Assembly Republicans voted unanimously Thursday behind closed doors to oust Chad Mayes as their leader following his vote last month in favor of bipartisan climate change legislation, the Mercury News <u>reports</u>. "The Republican caucus just elected a new Republican leader," Mayes announced on the floor following the 25-member caucus' vote. The new leader of the bloc, farmer Brian Dahle, voted against the extension of the state's cap and trade program.

MAIL CALL! N.H. LAWMAKERS SEEK UPDATE ON WATER CONTAMINATION: New Hampshire's two Democratic senators — <u>Jeanne Shaheen</u> and <u>Maggie Hassan</u> — and Rep. <u>Carol Shea-Porter</u> sent <u>a letter</u> to the Air Force requesting an update on efforts to decontaminate water supplies fouled with perfluorinated chemicals at the former Pease Air Force Base. They sought a public meeting as well as an opportunity for local elected officials to receive an update.

REPORT: HOW TO GET HYDROPOWER DEPLOYED FASTER: The R Street Institute released <u>a report</u> Thursday detailing a series of changes to the hydropower licensing process that it said would speed deployment of the renewable power source. "Congress and the administration should prioritize the reduction of uncertainties and delays in hydropower licensure, which largely stem from duplicative processes, poor dispute resolution and lack of schedule discipline," the report said. Among the top suggestions are making FERC the sole federal decision-maker and studying the possibility of privatizing federally owned dams.

NO MORE HOLDING ON RENEWABLES: Green America launched a <u>new campaign</u> Thursday urging AT&T and Verizon to publicly commit to fuel their operations with 100 percent renewable energy by 2025. "AT&T and Verizon both recognize the urgency of climate change and the need for action, now we need to see that concern translate into commitments to purchase of wind and solar power," Beth Porter, climate campaigns

director at Green America, said in a statement. Both companies are currently using less than two percent renewable energy to power their massive servers, according to Green America.

RECORDS SOUGHT OVER AUTO REVIEW: The Center for Biological Diversity filed an <u>open records</u> request Thursday seeking copies of all communications between representatives of the auto industry and EPA and NHTSA over the federal reassessment of vehicle fuel economy standards. "The public deserves to know the truth about whether backroom deals are influencing the agency," Vera Pardee, a senior attorney with the group, said in a statement.

TROLL SO HARD: 314 Action, a new group hoping to get scientists elected to public office, <u>tweeted</u> a picture of several copies of "Environmental Science for Dummies" that they sent to EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt at the agency's headquarters.

NEW DAY, NEW WEBSITE: The House Energy and Commerce Committee unveiled a shiny new website Thursday that includes, among other things, an improved search system. Take a glance <u>here</u>.

QUICK HITS

- Texas oil industry boasts of near-infinite supply but what if the world stops buying? Houston Chronicle
- Billionaire Carl Icahn Has Lost More Money This Year Than Almost Anyone in the World. <u>Time</u>.
- Small mining company seeks to kill Ironwood Monument designation. Tuscon.com.
- Duke pipeline plan delayed over environmental concerns. Cincinatti.com.
- China's Solar Appetite Eats Into India's Effort on Clean Energy. Bloomberg.

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Stories from POLITICO Pro

Perry's grid study: 4 things that may have legs Back

By Darius Dixon | 08/24/2017 06:56 PM EDT

The Energy Department's study of the electric grid arrived late Wednesday, but it's not yet clear whether Secretary Rick Perry's efforts to help support nuclear and coal-fired power plants will have legs.

The 187-page <u>report</u> called for DOE to focus mostly on R&D and coordinating efforts to prepare for disasters, and left the heavy lifting for other agencies, such as FERC, EPA, the National Science Foundation and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Among the recommendations are for FERC to "expedite" its work to reformulate how electricity markets pay power generators, and for EPA to revisit its New Source Review permitting program that requires plants to tighten emissions controls when they upgrade their plants — both issues that have proven difficult for the two agencies.

"If these recommendations, as a suite, are something that the administration really wants to do, someone in the White House is going to have to quarterback that," said Greg Gershuny, who served as chief of staff in DOE's Energy Policy and Systems Analysis office during the Obama administration and worked on the Quadrennial Energy Review.

"In the next four or five weeks, as Congress gets back, we'll see if these things are going to move," he said.
"How engaged Perry is and how many times a week he's going to the Hill and talking to other agency heads is going to tell us a lot about how serious they are about this."

DOE, which did not submit the report for OMB review before its release, is now taking <u>public comments</u> on the study. Here's a breakdown of the issues.

Wholesale electricity markets: The new report calls on FERC to speed its work with states, grid operators and market players to "improve" how power producers are paid in the wholesale markets under the agency's jurisdiction. FERC had been grappling with the issue under its "price formation" initiative over the past three years, rolling out proposals and new rules to try to adapt to the increasing complexity of the electric grid — and to make sure power generators are fairly compensated.

However, grid operator PJM has <u>argued</u> regulators were thinking too small, and it released a trio of working papers earlier this year highlighting FERC's initiative while quickly noting that "fundamental" price formation issues hadn't been addressed. DOE suggested that FERC consider "fuel-neutral" markets to pay for essential grid reliability services.

So far, FERC seems sympathetic.

Soon after President Donald Trump gave him the gavel this month, FERC Chairman Neil Chatterjee stressed that generators, including coal and nuclear plants, "need to be properly compensated to recognize the value they provide." FERC has broad authority to alter market pricing rules, but that can be a slow process, and can have vastly different impacts in different states and regions — and draw sharp political pushback.

ClearView Energy Partners analysts warned against dismissing opposition to market rules that raise electricity prices on consumers.

"FERC-led initiatives can often create strange bedfellows, strong alliances and more opposition than state-led proposals," a ClearView report issued Thursday said. "We are reluctant to assume this all goes as quickly as the change advocates hope."

DOE's study also argued that "negative offers should be mitigated to the broadest extent possible," a reference to the fact that renewables like wind power can still make money even if power prices go negative because they can rely on a federal production tax credit.

Grid reliability R&D: The new report says that DOE should "focus R&D efforts to enhance utility, grid operator, and consumer efforts to enhance system reliability and resilience." That view stands in contrast to the Trump administration's first budget proposal, which suggested cutting DOE's electricity office by 42 percent from current levels, to \$120 million.

Nevertheless, Perry has said he wants his agency to focus on "early-stage" research, with the intention of transitioning that work to the private sector as quickly as possible.

DOE's study says more research should be done on technology that will it make it easier for grid operators to integrate increasing amounts of renewable power, facilitate technical coordination with Canada and Mexico, and increase "targeted" R&D to boost the efficiency of coal-fired power plants.

Infrastructure development: The new push calls on the federal government to "accelerate and reduce costs for the licensing, relicensing, and permitting of grid infrastructure" — including power plants and transmission — which could easily involve a half-dozen federal agencies.

DOE, the study says, "should review regulatory burdens for siting and permitting for generation and gas and electricity transmission infrastructure and should take actions to accelerate the process and reduce costs."

The Obama administration sought to quicken the electric transmission permitting process in 2013 with a <u>memo</u> to the chiefs at the departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Energy and Interior, which resulted in a <u>final rule</u> last year. Several members of Congress have also pressed the issue in legislation, including in the 2015 highway bill that <u>included</u> directives to more than a dozen agencies to join a new permitting council tasked with speeding up the federal process for large infrastructure projects.

DOE also recommends that the NRC "ensure the safety of existing and new nuclear facilities without unnecessarily adding to the operating costs and economic uncertainty of nuclear energy" and, without much explanation, "[r]evisit nuclear safety rules under a risk-based approach."

The report doesn't target specific NRC regulations, but does discuss the agency's license renewal process and the expenses associated with equipment upgrades, which may make it a prime target for cost reductions.

Breaking down barriers for coal power: The study recommends that policymakers "encourage EPA to allow coal-fired power plants to improve efficiency and reliability without triggering new regulatory approvals and associated costs." That's a reference to the New Source Review permitting program, which was created under the 1977 Clean Air Act amendments to prevent coal plants and other major emitters from making equipment changes or upgrades that would increase their emissions.

Reforming the program has been an industry priority for decades, with companies arguing that power plants have held back on making upgrades that would increase their efficiency because of concerns that they would have to go through the NSR permitting process. A collection of unions earlier this summer, for example, <u>called for NSR reform</u> as part of any replacement rule for the Clean Power Plan.

But multiple Bush administration attempts to weaken permitting requirements show that NSR reform is much easier said than done. A 2002 rule was partly struck down by the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals, which said several new exemptions were not allowed under the Clean Air Act. Another 2003 rule introducing another major exemption was completely tossed out by the D.C. Circuit. A third NSR rulemaking, issued in the final days of Bush's presidency, dealt with how sources report emissions changes. Environmentalists sued, and the rule remains under reconsideration at EPA to this day.

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Back

Trump takes potshots at GOP leaders as fiscal crisis looms Back

By Kyle Cheney and Seung Min Kim | 08/24/2017 03:40 PM EDT

President Donald Trump on Thursday reignited his feud with GOP leaders, taking fresh potshots at Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and House Speaker Paul Ryan. But underneath the bluster, there's a recognition that Congress and the White House still need to work together to avoid fiscal disaster in September.

Trump is working to convene a meeting with McConnell and Ryan as well as Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi soon after the August recess ends, according to congressional sources. Avoiding a federal default and a government shutdown will likely be chief among the topics of discussion.

It could be an awkward meeting.

Trump blamed McConnell and Ryan in a pair of tweets Thursday for creating a "mess" over the debt ceiling, contending they rejected his call to attach an increase in the nation's borrowing limit to a bipartisan veterans bill.

"I requested that Mitch M & Paul R tie the Debt Ceiling legislation into the popular V.A. Bill (which just passed) for easy approval," Trump wrote Thursday morning. "They didn't do it so now we have a big deal with Dems holding them up (as usual) on Debt Ceiling approval. Could have been so easy-now a mess!"

The tweets underscore the absence of a strategy heading into a delicate month of negotiations that could rock the U.S. economy as well as Trump's refusal to call a truce in the GOP's growing civil war.

The White House had said Wednesday that Trump and McConnell will meet following the August recess to discuss the fall agenda, though it did not mention Democratic leaders. A White House spokesperson didn't immediately respond to a question about a bipartisan meeting, but press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Trump intends to work closely with congressional leaders on shared policy goals.

Trump's tweet aside, passing a debt limit increase was never going to be easy.

The White House favors a "clean" debt ceiling hike. But conservatives in the House and Senate are loath to back any measure that increases the nation's borrowing authority without corresponding spending cuts and reforms. Connecting a "clean" debt ceiling hike to a veterans bill would have put them in an untenable position of either voting against their fiscal priorities or against the bipartisan VA measure.

Though the notion of tying a debt ceiling increase to the veterans measure was always likely to be doomed, one GOP source said the Senate had been preparing to support it, only to be stymied when House leaders opted to adjourn for the August recess.

Ryan said on CNBC on Thursday that the House had looked at linking the debt ceiling to the VA bill but the deadline came up and "we weren't able to do that then." Recess was also fast approaching, and House GOP leaders didn't want to keep Republicans in town for a toxic vote and then send them home feeling demoralized and angry.

Two House Republican sources also note that leaders in their chamber were worried that some GOP lawmakers would fume at being squeezed into supporting veterans and a debt increase they hated — or voting against those who served the country and sticking to their fiscally conservative principals.

At one point in early August, according to the same sources, the White House suggested the House, which left a week before the Senate, return for a debt ceiling vote. House GOP leaders rejected the idea outright because they knew it would upset their members to return for despised legislation.

Still, Ryan predicted Thursday that Congress would pass a debt ceiling increase and said there are "a lot of options" about how to structure the legislation.

Ryan also said he expects the House to pass bills to keep the government open about a week after Congress returns. But he said the Senate's heavy workload in September — which, unlike the House agenda, includes confirmation of judges, subcabinet officials and ambassadors — will likely require a short-term funding measure to keep the government open until December.

Trump, though, has signaled that he's open to playing hardball for border wall funding, raising the prospect of a shutdown next month if he doesn't sign the short-term funding extension.

Trump is increasingly furious at Senate Republicans for failing to repeal Obamacare and not doing more to curb the Russia investigations. He <u>vented to</u> Sens. Bob Corker (R-Tenn.) and Thom Tillis (R-N.C.) over the phone, is <u>seeking a primary challenger</u> to Sen. Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.) and has expressed frustration at Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.). He's also drawn criticism from senators for his handling of the violent white supremacist march in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Trump has particularly tangled with McConnell, shouting at him in a phone call earlier this month, while the Senate majority leader later questioned Trump's political acumen.

After hitting McConnell and Ryan over the debt ceiling, Trump added another broadside in his morning tweetstorm.

"The only problem I have with Mitch McConnell is that, after hearing Repeal & Replace for 7 years, he failed!" Trump tweeted. "That should NEVER have happened!"

Trump's attack on the Republican leaders came just a day after the White House and McConnell's office issued conciliatory statements intended to tamp down talk of a breach and after the two men had not spoken for two weeks. McConnell's statement also listed preventing a government default among his and Trump's shared goals.

And even as Trump showed no inclination to lighten up on his fellow Republicans, GOP lawmakers on Thursday appeared to try to lower the temperature around their squabble with the president.

Asked about Trump's debt-ceiling swipe, Ryan told CNBC, "I don't really take it as going after me." McConnell also <u>praised</u> Trump at a public appearance in Kentucky on Thursday.

Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), a frequent Trump critic, said during an interview with conservative radio host Hugh Hewitt that Trump is right to criticize Congress and encouraged lawmakers to take tough votes.

Even Sen. Jeff Flake told Fox News he was "glad" Trump visited Arizona this week to tour the border, despite Trump's repeated attacks on him.

Still, Flake also poked at Trump in a separate interview, with CNN reporting Flake said Trump was "inviting" a 2020 challenger by how he is governing.

Elana Schor and Rachael Bade contributed to this report.

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Sent: 6/16/2017 7:46:52 PM

To: Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]

Subject: National Security Presidential Memorandum on Strengthening the Policy of the United States Toward Cuba

THE WHITE HOUSE Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE June 16, 2017

June 16, 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT

THE SECRETARY OF STATE

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

THE SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY

THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

THE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF OF STAFF

THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT

AND BUDGET

THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR

NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR

HOMELAND SECURITY AND COUNTERTERRORISM

THE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF SCIENCE

AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES

TO THE UNITED NATIONS

THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE SMALL BUSINESS

ADMINISTRATION

THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY

FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF PERSONNEL

MANAGEMENT

SUBJECT: Strengthening the Policy of the United States Toward Cuba

Section 1. Purpose.

The United States recognizes the need for more freedom and democracy, improved respect for human rights, and increased free enterprise in Cuba. The Cuban people have long suffered under a Communist regime that suppresses their legitimate aspirations for freedom and prosperity and fails to respect their essential human dignity.

My Administration's policy will be guided by the national security and foreign policy interests of the United States, as well as solidarity with the Cuban people. I will seek to promote a stable, prosperous, and free country for the Cuban people. To that end, we must channel funds toward the Cuban people and away from a regime that has failed to meet the most basic requirements of a free and just society.

In Cuba, dissidents and peaceful protesters are arbitrarily detained and held in terrible prison conditions. Violence and intimidation against dissidents occurs with impunity. Families of political prisoners are not allowed to assemble or peacefully protest the improper confinement of their loved ones. Worshippers are harassed, and free association by civil society organizations is blocked. The right to speak freely, including through access to the internet, is denied, and there is no free press. The United States condemns these abuses.

The initial actions set forth in this memorandum, including restricting certain financial transactions and travel, encourage the Cuban government to address these abuses. My Administration will continue to evaluate its policies so as to improve human rights, encourage the rule of law, foster free markets and free enterprise, and promote democracy in Cuba.

Sec. 2. Policy.

It shall be the policy of the executive branch to:

- (a) End economic practices that disproportionately benefit the Cuban government or its military, intelligence, or security agencies or personnel at the expense of the Cuban people.
 - (b) Ensure adherence to the statutory ban on tourism to Cuba.
- (c) Support the economic embargo of Cuba described in section 4(7) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996 (the embargo), including by opposing measures that call for an end to the embargo at the United Nations and other international forums and through regular reporting on whether the conditions of a transition government exist in Cuba.
- (d) Amplify efforts to support the Cuban people through the expansion of internet services, free press, free enterprise, free association, and lawful travel.
- (e) Not reinstate the "Wet Foot, Dry Foot" policy, which encouraged untold thousands of Cuban nationals to risk their lives to travel unlawfully to the United States.
- (f) Ensure that engagement between the United States and Cuba advances the interests of the United States and the Cuban people. These interests include: advancing Cuban human rights; encouraging the growth of a Cuban private

sector independent of government control; enforcing final orders of removal against Cuban nationals in the United States; protecting the national security and public health and safety of the United States, including through proper engagement on criminal cases and working to ensure the return of fugitives from American justice living in Cuba or being harbored by the Cuban government; supporting United States agriculture and protecting plant and animal health; advancing the understanding of the United States regarding scientific and environmental challenges; and facilitating safe civil aviation.

Sec. 3. Implementation.

The heads of departments and agencies shall begin to implement the policy set forth in section 2 of this memorandum as follows:

- (a) Within 30 days of the date of this memorandum, the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Commerce, as appropriate and in coordination with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Transportation, shall initiate a process to adjust current regulations regarding transactions with Cuba.
 - (i) As part of the regulatory changes described in this subsection, the Secretary of State shall identify the entities or subentities, as appropriate, that are under the control of, or act for or on behalf of, the Cuban military, intelligence, or security services or personnel (such as Grupo de Administracion Empresarial S.A. (GAESA), its affiliates, subsidiaries, and successors), and publish a list of those identified entities and subentities with which direct financial transactions would disproportionately benefit such services or personnel at the expense of the Cuban people or private enterprise in Cuba.
 - (ii) Except as provided in subsection (a)(iii) of this section, the regulatory changes described in this subsection shall prohibit direct financial transactions with those entities or subentities on the list published pursuant to subsection (a)(i) of this section.
 - (iii) The regulatory changes shall not prohibit transactions that the Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary of Commerce, in coordination with the Secretary of State, determines are consistent with the policy set forth in section 2 of this memorandum and:
 - (A) concern Federal Government operations, including Naval Station Guantanamo Bay and the United States mission in Havana;
 - (B) support programs to build democracy in Cuba;
 - (C) concern air and sea operations that support permissible travel, cargo, or trade;
 - (D) support the acquisition of visas for permissible travel;
 - (E) support the expansion of direct telecommunications and internet access for the Cuban people;
 - (F) support the sale of agricultural commodities, medicines, and medical devices sold to Cuba consistent with the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C.

7201 et seq.) and the Cuban Democracy Act of 2002 (22 U.S.C. 6001 et seq.);

- (G) relate to sending, processing, or receiving authorized remittances:
- (H) otherwise further the national security or foreign policy interests of the United States; or
- (I) are required by law.
- (b) Within 30 days of the date of this memorandum, the Secretary of the Treasury, in coordination with the Secretary of State, shall initiate a process to adjust current regulations to ensure adherence to the statutory ban on tourism to Cuba.
 - (i) The amended regulations shall require that educational travel be for legitimate educational purposes. Except for educational travel that was permitted by regulation in effect on January 27, 2011, all educational travel shall be under the auspices of an organization subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, and all such travelers must be accompanied by a representative of the sponsoring organization.
 - (ii) The regulations shall further require that those traveling for the permissible purposes of non-academic education or to provide support for the Cuban people:
 - (A) engage in a full-time schedule of activities that enhance contact with the Cuban people, support civil society in Cuba, or promote the Cuban people's independence from Cuban authorities; and
 - (B) meaningfully interact with individuals in Cuba.
 - (iii) The regulations shall continue to provide that every person engaging in travel to Cuba shall keep full and accurate records of all transactions related to authorized travel, regardless of whether they were effected pursuant to license or otherwise, and such records shall be available for examination by the Department of the Treasury for at least 5 years after the date they occur.
 - (iv) The Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Secretary of Transportation shall review their agency's enforcement of all categories of permissible travel within 90 days of the date the regulations described in this subsection are finalized to ensure such enforcement accords with the policies outlined in section 2 of this memorandum.
- (c) The Secretary of the Treasury shall regularly audit travel to Cuba to ensure that travelers are complying with relevant statutes and regulations. The Secretary of the Treasury shall request that the Inspector General of the Department of the Treasury inspect the activities taken by the Department of the Treasury to implement this audit requirement. The Inspector General of the Department of the Treasury shall provide a report to the President, through the Secretary of the Treasury, summarizing the results of that inspection within 180 days of the adjustment of current regulations described in subsection (b) of this section and annually thereafter.

- (d) The Secretary of the Treasury shall adjust the Department of the Treasury's current regulation defining the term "prohibited officials of the Government of Cuba" so that, for purposes of title 31, part 515 of the Code of Federal Regulations, it includes Ministers and Vice-Ministers, members of the Council of State and the Council of Ministers; members and employees of the National Assembly of People's Power; members of any provincial assembly; local sector chiefs of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution; Director Generals and sub-Director Generals and higher of all Cuban ministries and state agencies; employees of the Ministry of the Interior (MININT); employees of the Ministry of Defense (MINFAR); secretaries and first secretaries of the Confederation of Labor of Cuba (CTC) and its component unions; chief editors, editors, and deputy editors of Cuban state-run media organizations and programs, including newspapers, television, and radio; and members and employees of the Supreme Court (Tribuno Supremo Nacional).
- (e) The Secretary of State and the Representative of the United States to the United Nations shall oppose efforts at the United Nations or (with respect to the Secretary of State) any other international forum to lift the embargo until a transition government in Cuba, as described in section 205 of the LIBERTAD Act, exists.
- (f) The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Attorney General, shall provide a report to the President assessing whether and to what degree the Cuban government has satisfied the requirements of a transition government as described in section 205(a) of the LIBERTAD Act, taking into account the additional factors listed in section 205(b) of that Act. This report shall include a review of human rights abuses committed against the Cuban people, such as unlawful detentions, arbitrary arrests, and inhumane treatment.
- (g) The Attorney General shall, within 90 days of the date of this memorandum, issue a report to the President on issues related to fugitives from American justice living in Cuba or being harbored by the Cuban government.
- (h) The Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall review all democracy development programs of the Federal Government in Cuba to ensure that they align with the criteria set forth in section 109(a) of the LIBERTAD Act.
- (i) The Secretary of State shall convene a task force, composed of relevant departments and agencies, including the Office of Cuba Broadcasting, and appropriate non-governmental organizations and private-sector entities, to examine the technological challenges and opportunities for expanding internet access in Cuba, including through Federal Government support of programs and activities that encourage freedom of expression through independent media and internet freedom so that the Cuban people can enjoy the free and unregulated flow of information.
- (j) The Secretary of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall continue to discourage dangerous, unlawful migration that puts Cuban and American lives at risk. The Secretary of Defense shall continue to provide support, as necessary, to the Department of State and the Department of Homeland Security in carrying out the duties regarding interdiction of migrants.
- (k) The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Defense, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall annually report to the

President regarding the engagement of the United States with Cuba to ensure that engagement is advancing the interests of the United States.

(1) All activities conducted pursuant to subsections (a) through (k) of this section shall be carried out in a manner that furthers the interests of the United States, including by appropriately protecting sensitive sources, methods, and operations of the Federal Government.

Sec. 4. Earlier Presidential Actions.

- (a) This memorandum supersedes and replaces both National Security Presidential Directive-52 of June 28, 2007, *U.S. Policy toward Cuba*, and Presidential Policy Directive-43 of October 14, 2016, *United States-Cuba Normalization*.
- (b) This memorandum does not affect either Executive Order 12807 of May 24, 1992, Interdiction of Illegal Aliens, or Executive Order 13276 of November 15, 2002, Delegation of Responsibilities Concerning Undocumented Aliens Interdicted or Intercepted in the Caribbean Region.

Sec. 5. General Provisions.

- (a) Nothing in this memorandum shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:
 - (i) the authority granted by law to an executive department or agency, or the head thereof; or
 - (ii) the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.
- (b) This memorandum shall be implemented consistent with applicable laws and subject to the availability of appropriations.
- (c) This memorandum is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.
- (d) The Secretary of State is hereby authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the Federal Register.

DONALD J. TRUMP

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Message

From: Morning Energy [morningenergy@politico.com]

Sent: 1/26/2018 3:24:03 PM

To: Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]

Subject: POLITICO's Morning Energy: Trump takes the stage — Plenty of room at the White House inn — One-on-one with

Barrasso

By Kelsey Tamborrino | 01/26/2018 10:00 AM EDT

With help from Eric Wolff

TRUMP TAKES THE STAGE: President Donald Trump delivered a simple message <u>this morning</u>: America is open for business. During his speech before the World Economic Forum, Trump kept tightly to a script of prepared remarks and proclaimed from Davos, "The world is witnessing the resurgence of a strong and prosperous America." Part of that resurgence, the president explained, was due to his recent signing of a new tax cut law, his administration's regulatory rollback and energy that is "abundant and affordable."

"We are lifting self-imposed restrictions on energy production to provide affordable power to our citizens and businesses and to promote energy security for our friends all around the world," the president declared. "No country should be held hostage to a single provider of energy. America is roaring back and now is the time to invest in the future of America.

"We have dramatically cut taxes it make America competitive. We are eliminating burdensome regulations at a record pace. We are reforming the bureaucracy to make it lean, responsive and accountable and we are insuring our laws are enforced fairly,' he added. "We have the best colleges and universities in the world and we have the best workers in the world. Energy is abundant and affordable. There is never been a better time to do business in America."

Ahead of his speech, the White House outlined how that the president would describe how "America First" fits into a the forum's theme of "a shared future in a fractured world." On Thursday, Trump declared to the prime ministers of Great Britain and Israel he would promote "peace and prosperity." Trump, the White House said, is also looking to "forge closer ties" with allies, including French President Emmanuel Macron and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau - who have bumped heads with Trump on trade and climate policies in the past. Read his speech here.

HAPPY FRIDAY! I'm your host Kelsey Tamborrino. Many of you were very close, but no one guessed that in 1975, the Senate adopted a rule requiring most of its committees to work in public. That same year, the Senate approved open conference committee sessions. For today: How many senators attended the world premiere of "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" held at Constitution Hall? Send your tips, energy gossip and comments to ktamborrino@politico.com, or follow us on Twitter @kelseytam, @Morning Energy and @POLITICOPro.

PLENTY OF ROOM AT THE WHITE HOUSE INN: Republican lawmakers are increasingly concerned that the Trump administration has yet to fill several energy-related vacancies across the federal government. A year out from Trump's inauguration, still no name has been selected for key positions, including overseeing EPA's Superfund program or to lead the Bureau of Land Management or National Park Service, Pro's Anthony Adragna reports.

Let's break this down: Trump has yet to nominate 244 people out of the 635 key positions requiring Senate confirmation, according to a <u>tracker</u> from The Washington Post and Partnership for Public Service. Of those, there are no nominees for seven of the 17 slots at Interior requiring Senate confirmation, Anthony reports. At

EPA, it's six of 13 spots, and 11 of 22 positions at the Energy Department. There's also been no movement on vacancies within the White House's Office of Science and Technology Policy, including the top spot, the longest that role has gone without a nominee.

Why, you ask? Some Republicans blame Democrats for drawing out the confirmation process, which others say has driven other potential candidates to opt out of government service altogether. But Trump himself vowed in an <u>interview</u> with Forbes in November that he didn't intend to fill out agency staffing. "I'm generally not going to make a lot of the appointments that would normally be - because you don't need them," Trump said.

Still, the vacancies are cause for frustration for many: "It has to make it just that much more difficult within the agencies to just be so short-teamed," Senate Energy Chairman <u>Lisa Murkowski</u> said. "I know people who have been nominated already who are getting really frustrated. It's demoralizing," Sen. <u>Dan Sullivan</u> said. "They have real lives. They have bills they got to pay. We need to do better." Read the story <u>here</u>.

ONE-ON-ONE WITH BARRASSO: What's Year 2 atop Senate EPW mean for Wyoming's <u>John Barrasso</u>? In an interview with Anthony, Barrasso echoes the White House's focus on infrastructure, praises his Democratic cohort <u>Tom Carper</u> and discusses where exactly he falls in ongoing talks on the Renewable Fuel Standard. **Some highlights from <u>the exclusive interview</u>:**

On infrastructure: "[P]art of what we're doing with WRDA right now is infrastructure. Water resource development is infrastructure. But you need to deal with the roads, the highways, the bridges, the dams, all of it out there. So, I'm optimistic. We'll be discussing it at the retreat and I hope the president brings it up in the State of the Union. And I mentioned that to both [National Economic Council] Director [Gary] Cohn and [Transportation] Secretary [Elaine] Chao that I think it would be good to have the president put some meat on the bones during the State of the Union address next Tuesday."

On paying for it: "There's a difference between rural and urban. Public-private partnerships] can work in urban areas. They're not going to work in rural areas."

On Renewable Fuel Standard talks: "If a refinery goes bankrupt because of a system that the government put in place after the refinery was built, that's not a system that's worked. So we need to modernize and modernize this to take into account where we are today with the technology and the vehicles and the amount of fuel being consumed. [Sen. John Cornyn's] leading the efforts to develop this bipartisan reform bill that all the stakeholders can support and then once that's introduced the committee is going to give it serious consideration."

ONCE-IN POLICY NO MORE: EPA air chief Bill Wehrum withdrew Clinton-era guidance Thursday that was designed to prevent major emitters from getting out of strict requirements to limit their toxic air emissions. "This guidance is based on a plain language reading of the statute that is in line with EPA's guidance for other provisions of the Clean Air Act," Wehrum said in a <u>statement</u>. "It will reduce regulatory burden for industries and the states, while continuing to ensure stringent and effective controls on hazardous air pollutants." In a memo, EPA revoked the 1995 so-called once-in always-in policy and said it would consider new regulations to clarify its interpretation of the law, Pro's Alex Guillén <u>reports</u>. Under the previous policy, any emitter that qualified as a "major" source of hazardous air pollutants, like power plants and factories, would forever be subject to that tougher standard to comply with MACT rules, even if its emissions dropped low enough to be considered an "area" source subject to fewer or no requirements, Alex writes. Read the memo here.

Barrasso and Sen. Shelley Moore Capito previously asked EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt to withdraw the policy earlier this month, they said on Thursday, cheering the move. "Withdrawal of this policy means manufacturers, oil and gas operations, and other types of industrial facilities will have greater incentive to reduce emissions," Barrasso said in a statement. "Now these companies can help protect the environment without wasting time and money on unnecessary red tape."

Not so fast: Ed Markey said the move "could be the worst environmental sin yet from the Trump administration." Greens were also quick to call out the decision; The League of Conservation Voters's Sara Chieffo called it a "gutting" of public health protections.

by Sen. Chuck Grassley and some Midwestern senators still has life. Orrin Hatch's tax extenders bill revives the credit for blenders of biodiesel, but the Finance committee members are still considering moving it to a producers credit, according to Derek Theurer, an aide to Bill Cassidy who was only speaking at a Jones Day tax conference Thursday. "There's members on the Senate side that have views both ways. Some that would like to move to producers' credits, others that are concerned about impact on consumers, the price of fuel," he said. "That's the kind of competing interests being weighed and members are continuing to discuss it."

TERMS AGREED IN SUNCOKE SETTLEMENT: Metallurgical coke producer SunCoke Energy and Cokenergy reached an agreement to resolve alleged Clean Air Act violations related to leaking coke ovens and excessive bypass venting of hot coking gases, the Justice Department said. A consent decree requires estimated annual emissions reductions of 2,075 tons of coke oven emissions and requires coke oven rebuilds, DOJ said. Cokenergy will also spend \$250,000 on a lead abatement project in the East Chicago area. DOJ added, the companies "agreed to enhanced monitoring and testing requirements, including two stack tests to measure lead emissions," and will pay a \$5 million civil penalty. "Today's settlement is one example of how EPA is committed to reducing exposure to lead and other contaminants in communities across the country," Pruitt said on Thursday. "Lead exposure is a serious problem and reducing it is a priority for EPA."

PRUITT AND THE PRESS: E&E News chronicles Pruitt's relationship with the press in a lengthy story from Thursday on the EPA chief's tour through the country on the Waters of the U.S. rule. Based on roughly thousands of pages of documents obtained through public records requests to multiple states, E&E's Ariel Wittenberg and Kevin Bogardus piece together Pruitt's press strategy. Read it here.

CALIFORNIA CALLING: California Gov. Jerry Brown celebrated the Golden State and rebuked the president's climate agenda Thursday during his final "State of the State" address. The governor "rallied this bulwark of the Democratic Party to push forward on climate change, immigration and high-speed rail, signaling another year of conflict between Washington and the nation's most populous state," POLITICO's David Siders and Carla Marinucci report. "Despite what is widely believed by some of the most powerful people in Washington, the science of climate change is not in doubt," the Democratic governor said Thursday. "All nations agree except one, and that is solely because of one man: our current president." Brown added, "Here in California, we follow a different path."

Brown's agenda, which includes fighting climate change, putting 5 million zero-emission vehicles on the road by 2030 and defending a state gas tax increase, "stands starkly at odds with the White House, and the governor cut at Trump implicitly," David and Carla write, setting the stage for year another of year of Washington fights from the state. It also continues a yearlong trend of feuding with Trump for the coastal state, with tensions heightening already this year. Earlier this week, state Attorney General Xavier Becerra filed a lawsuit challenging the administration's repeal of an Obama-era fracking rule, and on Thursday, the California delegation, including Sens. Kamala Harris and Dianne Feinstein, wrote to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, requesting Californians be able to comment on the offshore drilling proposal. Read more here.

DINNER WITH TRUMP: The president had dinner in Davos with multinational business leaders Thursday, including Eldar Saetre of Norway's Statoil ASA and Patrick Pouyanne of France's Total SA. Much like his Cabinet meetings, Trump went around the table and had each participant discuss his business. At one point, Pouyanne said his company was investing in renewables, joking to Trump, "and maybe you disagree." Saetre, meanwhile, used his time to congratulate Trump on tax reform. "I think that is really good news, for all of us here, but for oil and gas and our industry."

SOUTH KOREA WANTS SOLAR CONSULTATION: South Korea asked the WTO twice separately this week for a consultation with the U.S. on its recent <u>solar tariff</u> and <u>washing machine</u> decisions. Korea argues the U.S. violated several international trade rules in its action, Pro's Adam Behsudi <u>reports</u>. Separate from the WTO's dispute settlement process, the requests kick-start a process under the WTO's safeguards agreement.

WEATHER CHANNEL TAKES STAND ON CLIMATE: The Weather Channel website took a stance on climate change Thursday, posting a banner that blared "THERE IS NO CLIMATE CHANGE DEBATE," and linked to a series of stories showing its effect. The company posted a <u>statement</u> detailing its "United States of Climate Change" project that will focus on such stories, but will not debate the science of climate change. "We're going to see how individuals, communities and businesses are responding to the changes that are already happening in America, and how they're preparing for the changes that have yet to occur," the website wrote.

LCV ENDORSES IN ILLINOIS: The LCV Action Fund backed two congressional candidates on Thursday: Brendan Kelly for Illinois' 12th District and Erik Jones in the 13th District. "Brendan Kelly and Erik Jones are exciting new voices for climate action and environmental protection," said LCV Action Fund Senior Vice President of Government Affairs Tiernan Sittenfeld.

MAIL CALL: General president of the United Association of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry, Mark McManus, penned a letter to Trump on Thursday, on the Renewable Fuel Standard and bankruptcy of Philadelphia Energy Solutions. Read the letter <u>here</u>.

MOVER, SHAKER: The Trust for Public Land announced Thursday that Diane Regas will be the organization's new president and CEO. Regas is currently executive director of Environmental Defense Fund.

QUICK HITS

- Trump wanted to know how U.S. stacks up to Russia on science, <u>E&E News</u>.
- FirstEnergy executive: Davis-Besse plant headed for premature closure, The Blade.
- A University of Cincinnati professor wanted to work for Trump's EPA. He ended up demonized and jobless, Cincinnati.com.
- Trump's solar tariff leaves state renewables targets in limbo, Bloomberg.
- Puerto Rico offers fiscal plan settling debt for pennies on the dollar, The Washington Post.
- Scientists are calling on the American Museum Of Natural History to cut ties with the Mercers, BuzzFeed.

THAT'S ALL FOR ME!

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Message

From: Joe Pompeo - POLITICO Media [jpompeo@politico.com]

Sent: 6/28/2017 10:26:03 AM

To: Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]

Subject: Morning Media: Austin Tice captivity back in the spotlight — Times v. Palin — Playboy's W.H. correspondent: 'I don't

like bullies'

By Joe Pompeo | 06/28/2017 06:23 AM EDT

With Cristiano Lima, Hadas Gold and Alex Weprin

TUNE IN THIS MORNING - Matt Lauer has a sit-down on "Today" with the parents of Austin Tice, the American journalist and former Marine who's been missing since he was taken captive in Syria nearly five years ago. Later on, Debra and Marc Tice will appear on "NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt" as well. The interviews come days after The New York Times <u>revealed</u> that in February, "national security officials began exploring ways to free Austin Tice," and that "White House officials ... set up a back channel" with Syria to this effect, only to see it quashed a few months later in the wake of American missile strikes.

TIPS AND COMMENTS: jpompeo@politico.com / @joepompeo. Morning Media is edited by Alex Weprin (@alexweprin / aweprin@politico.com) and produced with writing/reporting help from Cristiano Lima. (clima@politico.com / @ludacristiano). Hadas Gold contributed to today's newsletter. Archives. Subscribe.

NEW YORK TIMES READY TO RUMBLE WITH SARAH PALIN - A spokeswoman last night told me the company "had not yet seen" the defamation suit Palin filed against the Times yesterday, but that it "will defend against any claim vigorously." Palin's beef: "Mrs. Palin brings this action to hold The Times accountable for defaming her by publishing a statement about her that it knew to be false ... Specifically, on June 14, 2017, The Times Editorial Board ... falsely stated as a matter of fact to millions of people that Mrs. Palin incited Jared Loughner's January 8, 2011, shooting rampage at a political event in Tucson, Arizona." You can read the complaint here.

CNN STAFFERS DOWN IN THE DUMPS - BuzzFeed's Steven Perlberg reports: "The resignation of three CNN employees in the wake of the news outlet's retracted Russia story is making clear to the newsroom that reporters and editors have little margin for error in the Trump era. On Tuesday, CNN President Jeff Zucker sought to rally news staffers during the morning conference call, hours after President Trump tweeted about the resignations. According to a CNN source, Zucker told staffers to keep fighting the good fight, and that the impassioned response only demonstrated CNN's growing influence. Still, CNN sources described a glum environment in the wake of the resignations, as staffers watched conservative commentators like Fox News' Sean Hannity revel in CNN's pain."

Related from Paul Farhi in The Washington Post: "[T]he ... story was another ill-timed setback for CNN ... The heightened environment may ... explain why CNN went to such extraordinary lengths to address [the] story." More: "CNN's Russia story debacle came at the worst possible time for the network"

SOME COLOR ON CNN'S VETTING MALFUNCTION - "In CNN's newsroom, it is called the Triad: a three-pronged internal system designed to ensure that sensitive reporting by the network's journalists is unimpeachable before it runs," Michael Grynbaum reports in the Times. "The Triad system should have kicked into gear, with reviews by lawyers, a standards-and-practices division, and an editorial team known collectively as the Row, which checks facts and approves anonymous sources. (The system is so ingrained that CNN journalists often use the term as a verb: as in, has the story been 'rowed'?) But several network officials were

caught off-guard when the story appeared online, the people said, signaling that it had not received the proper approvals."

MUST READS:

- -- "The Gay Man Who Fled Chechnya's Purge" [The New Yorker]
- -- "Why the Far Right Wants to Be the New 'Alternative' Culture" [NYT Mag]
- -- "How Donald Trump and Roy Cohn's Ruthless Symbiosis Changed America" [Vanity Fair]
- -- "The Last Shot" [ProPublica]

PERSONAL REFLECTION - From the Playboy correspondent whose skewering of the White House press shop yesterday went viral: "The fact is: I like Sarah Sanders. I like Sean Spicer. I like most of the people I've met who work in this administration. They're personable and, as far as I can tell - with a few notable exceptions - decent people. But I don't like bullies and I don't like the entire institution of the press and free speech being castigated for no other reason than we either get stories wrong - which happens, and it should be then responsibly corrected - or because we report news the president doesn't like - which seems to happen even more often than getting stories wrong." More: "We Stood Up to the Administration Today Because Free Press is Crucial"

MEDIA MYSTERY: TRUMP'S 2009 'TIME COVER' - "The framed copy of Time magazine was hung up in at least five of President Trump's clubs, from South Florida to Scotland. Filling the entire cover was a photo of Donald Trump," <u>David Fahrenthold writes in The Washington Post</u>. "This cover -- dated March 1, 2009 -- looks like an impressive memento from Trump's pre-presidential career. ... Even when he was just a reality TV star, Trump was the kind of star who got a cover story in Time. But that wasn't true. The Time cover is a fake."

SOUND BITES:

- -- "There's a video circulating now -- whether it's accurate or not, I don't know -- but I would encourage everyone in this room and, frankly, everybody across the country to take a look at it." [Sarah Huckabee Sanders]
- -- "Does this feel like America? Where the White House takes q's from conservatives, then openly trashes the news media in the briefing room." [Jim Acosta]
- -- "To win, she'd have to prove the Times knew what it said was false or acted in reckless disregard of truth. High bar" [Brit Hume]
- -- "It's vintage NBC to misdirect blame for its own behavior, and its own results." [a Fox News spokeswoman]

THE GENESIS OF MEGYN KELLY'S ALEX JONES INTERVIEW - "One person familiar with the matter explained that the Jones interview had been partly [NBC News chief Andy] Lack's idea in the first place. Lack had read a profile of him in The New York Times and submitted his name for consideration to Kelly and other executives." That and more in Sarah Ellison's latest for Vanity Fair: "CAN MEGYN KELLY OUTRUN HER NBC 'NIGHTMARE'? The broadcaster's first month at the network has been full of surprises, and not the kind anyone wants. Can she put it behind her?"

REVOLVING DOOR: MOTHER JONES' TRUMP BUMP = SEVEN NEW JOURNALISTS - The magazine says the hires were made possible by "record support" Mother Jones has seen in recent months, as

hordes of news consumers have subscribed or donated to an array of publications following Trump's election. The most notable of the bunch is Ari Berman, a prominent voice on the voting rights beat who joins Mother Jones from The Nation. Additionally: Jamilah King joins from Mic to cover race and justice; former Daily News D.C. correspondent Dan Friedman joins to report on foreign influence and national security out of Washington; Amanda Silverman, formerly of The New Republic, is coming on board as senior news editor and Center for Investigative Reporting alum Julia Chan as audience director. The other two hires are filmmakers Al Kamalizad and Mark Helenowski, the inaugural participants in Mother Jones's new documentary film residency program.

SOUNDTRACK: New York Dolls, "Personality Crisis"

EXTRAS:

- -- You can count News Corp. and Axel Springer among those who are psyched about Google's \$2.7 billion antitrust fine from the European Commission. [THR]
- -- How TMZ "quietly became America's most potent pro-Trump media outlet." [Think Progress]
- -- A Sinclair Broadcasting Group's executive donated to Greg Gianforte's campaign -- a day after Gianforte was charged with body-slamming a reporter for The Guardian. [POLITICO]
- -- The Washington Post's new social media policy appears to make criticizing advertisers a fireable offense. [Washingtonian]

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Sent: Wed 6/28/2017 11:09:29 AM (UTC)

To:

Subject: POLITICO Playbook, presented by the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD): TICK-TOCK on the GOP's health-care 'flop' -- HOW TRUMP can turn it around -- PRO-TRUMP group pulls ads -- FAHRENTHOLD strikes again -- SPOTTED last night in ASPEN -...

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Today's POLITICO Playbook presented by the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD)

06/28/2017 07:02 AM EDT

By JAKE SHERMAN (<u>sherman@politico.com</u>; <u>@JakeSherman</u>), ANNA PALMER (<u>anna@politico.com</u>; <u>@apalmerdc</u>) and DANIEL LIPPMAN (<u>daniel@politico.com</u>; <u>@dlippman</u>)

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DRIVING THE DAY

BULLETIN -- WJLA: "Officials: Amtrak train hits, kills 2 CSX employees on tracks in D.C., service suspended": "Amtrak has suspended all service between Philadelphia and D.C. because of the incident. The D.C. Fire Department say they were called to the 1200 block of New York Avenue at around 11:55 p.m. and found the two victims. They were pronounced dead at the scene." http://bit.ly/2uhJX4m

Good Wednesday morning. THE QUOTE REPUBLICANS IN D.C. ARE TALKING ABOUT -- DONALD TRUMP at the top of a meeting with Republican senators about health care Tuesday afternoon: "This will be great if we get it done. And if we don't get it done, it's just going to be something that we're not going to like. And that's OK, and I understand that very well."

A MAJORITY, BUT FOR WHAT? -- THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE DONALD TRUMP AT HIS STRONGEST. He became president in an election that shocked the political system. YET most of his legislative goals remain far off. Tax reform remains undone. They have not repealed or replaced Obamacare. Passing an infrastructure bill remains just a goal. They have not funded a massive border wall. Congress hasn't passed a budget and is squirming to strike a deal to lay out a fiscal blueprint. One White House insider pointed to Neil Gorsuch's confirmation as Trump's principal legislative achievement.

MESSAGE TO 1600 -- HOW YOU CAN TURN IT AROUND (per several of the top GOP operators in and out of government) -- Stop setting artificial legislative deadlines. You spend a lot of time on media critiquing. Use some of that time to talk about the substance of the legislation you want to pass -- and sell it. Yes, your base loves the media bashing, and it's fun television for some. But now you have to pass bills. That's what governing is. And your base for that task is Washington insiders, who need to feel pressure -- or fear. The president clearly likes rallies -- cool, who doesn't? Hold a series of themed rallies to make the public case for what you want to do. At least try to have the president stick to the script. Convince Republican leadership on the Hill to pass some small-ball legislation you can sign -- use Rahm Emanuel's "Six for o6" as a model.

THE POLITICO TICK TOCK -- HOW HEALTH CARE FELL APART -- BURGESS EVERETT, JEN

Seife v. EPA (1:19-cv-05190)

7.31.2020

ED_003047_00078835-00001

HABERKORN and JOSH DAWSEY: "Inside the GOP's health care flop": "Senate Republicans had no inkling of what they were walking into on Tuesday afternoon as they filed into the Mike Mansfield room on the Capitol's second floor. Mitch McConnell's 51 colleagues, from his most junior members to his closest lieutenants, fully expected the Senate to vote this week on the Senate GOP's wounded Obamacare repeal bill. They knew the whip count was far worse than advertised, but were ready for McConnell to either admit defeat or make a furious round of deal-making to try to win their support.

"They took McConnell at his word that a vote would occur, regardless of the result. Then the Kentucky Republican shocked them all as he dispassionately informed them at the top of the meeting that the vote would be delayed, and that he would continue the painful exercise of trying to get 50 of the caucus's 52 votes for Obamacare repeal. Never mind that McConnell and his team had previously made clear that they did not believe letting the bill hang out over the July 4 recess would improve the result of the perilous negotiations. 'It's different from what he said ... yesterday afternoon as late as 5:30 p.m.,' said a Republican senator. ...

"Tinkering isn't going to work, from my perspective. There would have to be a major overhaul of the bill ... to win my support,' [Maine Sen. Susan] Collins said. ... 'The truth is, we're not even close. This is not, like, a couple of tweaks,' the aide said." http://politi.co/2sfQ2S2

-- A NOTE: Collins seems pretty dug in. As does Sen. Dean Heller (R-Nev.). The margin here is super slim.

GREAT DETAILS - per NYT's Glenn Thrush and Jonathan Martin: "When asked by reporters clustered on the blacktop outside the West Wing if Mr. Trump had command of the details of the negotiations, Mr. McConnell ignored the question and smiled blandly. ... A senator who supports the bill left the meeting at the White House with a sense that the president did not have a grasp of some basic elements of the Senate plan - and seemed especially confused when a moderate Republican complained that opponents of the bill would cast it as a massive tax break for the wealthy, according to an aide who received a detailed readout of the exchange. Mr. Trump said he planned to tackle tax reform later, ignoring the repeal's tax implications, the staff member added." http://nyti.ms/2uhcaYY

- --"How Governors From Both Parties Plotted to Derail the Senate Health Bill," by NYT's Alex Burns: http://nyti.ms/2tjZ2EZ
- -- "How Schumer kept Dems united on Obamacare: The Senate Democratic leader worked closely with senators and activist groups to keep pressure on the GOP -- and won at least a temporary victory as the repeal bill stalled," by Seung Min Kim and Elana Schor. http://politi.co/2tjjhmj

A CHEAT SHEET FOR MCCONNELL AND W.H. LEG AFFAIRS -- "5 changes McConnell can make to get repeal bill on track," by Adam Cancryn: http://politi.co/2tj9Vrb

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER MITCH MCCONNELL, one of the steadiest and most reliable leaders and vote counters Washington has seen, did the unthinkable and rattled his ranks. The Kentucky Republican had told lawmakers there would be a vote this week on health care, but instead -- just as Speaker Paul Ryan was forced to do three months ago -- decided to delay voting on the package after it was clear that GOP opposition to the health care package was stronger than expected.

MCCONNELL has been impervious to the types of problems Ryan faces on a weekly -- and sometimes daily -- basis. His decision to delay voting on a bill is a sign he couldn't, or didn't want to expend the political capital to get it done before the July 4th break. It's unclear what he can do to change the calculus among the growing bloc

of senators unwilling to vote for the bill.

THE BIG PROBLEM -- "Poll: Fewer than 4-in-10 voters back GOP health bill," by Steven Shepard: "Just 38 percent of voters approve of the Republican plan to repeal and replace Obamacare, according to a new POLITICO/Morning Consult poll conducted before Senate leaders pulled the latest version of their bill in an effort to win over more GOP votes. That's fewer than the 45 percent who disapprove of the Republican health care bill. Another 17 percent say they don't know or have no opinion of the bill." https://politi.co/2tnGRPC

DAN BALZ'S TAKE -- "'Repeal and replace' was once a unifier for the GOP. Now it's an albatross." http://wapo.st/2uhu2ms

REPUBLICANS V. TRUMP -- "Senate GOP seethes at Trump impulsiveness," by Alex Isenstadt and Josh Dawsey: "Top GOP officials and senators say White House chaos and impulsiveness are crippling efforts to expand the Republican Senate majority in 2018, unraveling long-laid plans and needlessly jeopardizing incumbents. There's a widespread sense of exasperation with the president, interviews with nearly two dozen senior Republicans reveal, and deep frustration with an administration they believe doesn't fully grasp what it will take to preserve the narrow majority or add to it.

"The most recent flash point involves Nevada Sen. Dean Heller, who was attacked by a White House-sanctioned outside group after announcing his opposition to the now stalled Obamacare repeal bill. Heller, the most endangered GOP incumbent up for reelection in 2018, was initially targeted with a surprise \$1 million digital, TV, and radio assault - an act of political retaliation that stunned both senators and other top GOP officials." http://politi.co/2tiLzhe

... BUT -- "Pro-Trump group pulls ads criticizing Heller over Obamacare," by Alex Isenstadt: "A pro-Trump outside group will pull its ads assailing GOP Sen. Dean Heller over his opposition to the now stalled Obamacare repeal bill -- a move that follows massive backlash from senior Republicans who called on the organization to stop attacking the Nevadan. America First Policies had begun airing TV and radio ads on Tuesday savaging Heller for his planned 'No' vote, with spots charging that Heller had broken his 'promise' to voters that he would dismantle Obamacare -- a stunning attack on a member of the president's own party and the most vulnerable Republican up for re-election in 2018.

"But on Tuesday evening -- just a few hours after the TV and radio ads went up and after Senate Republicans tossed plans to vote on the legislation this week -- the group, which is staffed with several of the president's top campaign aides, decided to stop running the ads, two senior Republicans familiar with the decision told POLITICO." http://politi.co/2sksUo6c

****** A message from the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD): A new study found that pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) reduced spending in Medicare Part D by 58 percent in 2014, driving down costs for the government, taxpayers, and beneficiaries. The study forecasts that PBMs will save \$1,800 per Medicare beneficiary, per year over the next ten years. Learn more at affordableprescriptiondrugs.org *******

PHIL RUCKER, BOB COSTA and ASHLEY PARKER: "Who's afraid of Trump? Not enough Republicans -- at least for now": "'This president is the first president in our history who has neither political nor military experience, and thus it has been a challenge to him to learn how to interact with Congress and learn how to push his agenda better,' said Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine), who opposes the current health-care bill. ...

"Trump's lieutenants ... have struggled to force Republicans into line. In March, when House Republicans were slow to rally behind the health-care bill, White House chief strategist Stephen K. Bannon told Freedom Caucus members that they must stop waffling and vote for the legislation. Bannon was immediately rebuffed by Rep. Joe Barton (R-Tex.), who has been in the House for more than three decades. Barton icily told Bannon that the only person who ordered him around was 'my daddy' - and that his father was unsuccessful in doing so, according to several Republicans with knowledge of the meeting.

"In an interview Tuesday, Barton smiled wryly when asked about the incident. 'I will admit on the record that I took exception to a comment that he made,' Barton said. 'There is a separation of powers, and the president has a role and the Congress has a role. That's all I'll say.'" http://wapo.st/2tjBsII

RAISE YOUR HAND IF YOU WANT TO BE POOLER! -- "Macron Invites Trump to Paris for Bastille Day," by NYT's Aurelien Breeden in Paris: "They have had their differences, but when President Emmanuel Macron of France and President Trump spoke by telephone on Tuesday about the threat of a new chemical weapons attack by Syria, Mr. Macron seized the opportunity and invited Mr. Trump to Paris for Bastille Day.

"It was not immediately clear whether Mr. Trump would accept the invitation, which was also extended to his wife, Melania, according to a statement from the Élysée Palace. But the traditional military parade in Paris on this Bastille Day, July 14, will also commemorate the 100th anniversary of America's entry into World War I to fight alongside the French, British and other Allies." http://nyti.ms/2soZKne

FOR YOUR RADAR -- "New cyberattack wallops Europe; spreads more slowly in U.S.," by AP's Raphael Satter in Paris and Frank Bajak in Houston: "A new and highly virulent outbreak of data-scrambling software -- apparently sown in Ukraine -- caused disruption across the world Tuesday. Following a similar attack in May, the fresh cyber-assault paralyzed some hospitals, government offices and major multinational corporations in a dramatic demonstration of how easily malicious programs can bring daily life to a halt. Ukraine and Russia appeared hardest hit by the new strain of ransomware - malicious software that locks up computer files with all-but-unbreakable encryption and then demands a ransom for its release.

"In the United States, the malware affected companies such as the drugmaker Merck and Mondelez International, the owner of food brands such as Oreo and Nabisco. Its pace appeared to slow as the day wore on, in part because the malware appeared to require direct contact between computer networks, a factor that may have limited its spread in regions with fewer connections to Ukraine." http://apne.ws/2skJgFO

-- REUTERS' PHIL STEWART and IDREES ALI: "Exclusive: Trump administration eyes hardening line toward Pakistan": "President Donald Trump's administration is exploring hardening its approach toward Pakistan to crack down on Pakistan-based militants launching attacks in neighboring Afghanistan, two U.S. officials tell Reuters. Potential Trump administration responses being discussed include expanding U.S. drone strikes, redirecting or withholding some aid to Pakistan and perhaps eventually downgrading Pakistan's status as a major non-NATO ally, the two officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity." http://reut.rs/2sgl2Sd

WHAT PAUL MANAFORT WAS UP TO -- "Manafort registers as foreign agent," by Theo Meyer: "The firm headed by Paul Manafort, President Donald Trump's former campaign chairman, made more than \$17 million working as a foreign agent of a pro-Russian Ukrainian political party, according to newly filed disclosure reports. Trump forced Manafort to step down from his campaign last year after The Associated Press reported that Manafort and another Trump campaign official, Rick Gates, had secretly helped the Ukrainian Party of

TRUMP INC. -- "Trump attorney Jay Sekulow's family has been paid millions from charities they control," by WaPo's Aaron Davis and Shawn Boburg: "President Trump's personal attorney Jay Sekulow was on his weekday radio show this month, defending the president vociferously, when he took a pause to highlight a charity that has brought Sekulow and his family millions of dollars. 'Let me take off the hat of the president's lawyer and put on the ACLJ hat,' he said, using the acronym for the American Center for Law and Justice. His June 16 program then cut to a plea for donations from audience members listening on 850 stations nationwide. 'Now, more than ever,' a narrator said, 'you need the ACLJ on your side.' ...

"[The ACLJ brought in] \$230 million in charitable donations from 2011 to 2015 -- and millions of those dollars ended up going to the members of the Sekulow family or their companies, a Washington Post analysis of IRS tax filings and business records in five states and the District found.

"Through a complex arrangement involving ACLJ and another charity, \$5.5 million was paid directly to Sekulow and five family members in salary or other compensation, tax records covering those years show. Another \$7.5 million went to businesses owned by Sekulow and his sister-in-law for producing and consulting on TV, movie and radio shows, including his weekday program, 'Jay Sekulow Live!' And \$21 million went to a small law firm co-owned by Sekulow, records show." http://wapo.st/2sPXqlV

WHAT NANCY PELOSI IS READING -- "Poll: Dems not ready to dump Pelosi," by Steven Shepard: "Washington Democrats are pointing fingers after last week's special election defeat in Georgia, but the party's voters aren't ready to jettison House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, according to a new POLITICO/Morning Consult poll.

"While Pelosi (D-Calif.) remains among the most unpopular figures in American politics, few Democratic voters in the survey blame her for Democrat Jon Ossoff's defeat last week or for Democratic losses in 2010, 2014 and 2016. Overall, 43 percent of voters think Pelosi should be replaced as Democratic leader, compared with only 26 percent who think she should remain in the post. Three in 10 voters say they don't know or don't have an opinion.

"But among Democratic voters, just over a quarter, 27 percent, want Pelosi booted as the party's leader in the chamber. That's fewer than the 41 percent who want Pelosi to stay, and the 31 percent who don't have an opinion." http://politi.co/2tnUXAN

HOT IN GOP LEADERSHIP -- "L.A.'s newest congressman still hasn't taken his oath. Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy wants to know why," by Sarah D. Wire in the L.A. Times: "House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Bakersfield) wants to know why Rep.-elect Jimmy Gomez hasn't been sworn in, saying the seat's 'elongated vacancy' is 'an abdication' of his responsibilities.

"Twenty one days have passed since Gomez won a special election to replace now-California Atty. Gen. Xavier Becerra, who resigned Los Angeles' 34th Congressional District last January. Gomez, a current Democratic state assemblyman, told The Times after the election he would try to delay his Assembly resignation to vote on extending the state's cap-and-trade program, which requires companies to buy permits to release greenhouse gas. Negotiations on cap and trade are escalating in Sacramento, and there are rumblings Gov. Jerry Brown would like to be able to count on Gomez' vote to pass the bill with a two-thirds majority before the Legislature leaves on July 21." http://lat.ms/2sgDo6K

VIDEO DU JOUR -- @CaitrionaPerry: "Video of the bizarre moment when President @realDonaldTrump called me over during his call with Taoiseach @campaignforLeo Varadkar. @rtenews" - **25-second video** http://bit.ly/2tXdP6A

TRUMP'S WEDNESDAY -- TRUMP "will lead a tribal, State, and local energy roundtable," and then will host the Chicago Cubs at the White House. Trump will meet with "immigration crime victims to urge passage of House legislation to save American lives." In the evening, he'll attend the RNC dinner at the Trump International Hotel.

THE JUICE ...

-- FIRST IN PLAYBOOK: WENDY SHERMAN, the under secretary of State for political affairs in the Obama administration, is joining NBC News and MSNBC as a "global affairs contributor." "[S]he will speak about diplomacy and international relations, as well as share her expertise on North Korea."

PLAYBOOK READS

TRUMP INC. -- "Making Ivanka Trump shoes: Long hours, low pay and abuse," by AP's Erika Kinetz in Ganzhou, China: "A worker with blood dripping from his head marked a low point in the tense, grinding life at a southeastern China factory used by Ivanka Trump and other fashion brands. An angry manager had hit him with the sharp end of a high-heeled shoe. Workers from the factory, including one current and two former employees who spoke to The Associated Press, reported overtime that stretched past midnight, steep production quotas and crude verbal abuse at Ganzhou Huajian International Shoe City Co. They said beatings were not unheard of, but the shoe attack, which all three say they witnessed last year, was violent enough to stand out." http://apne.ws/2tWLkG2

L.A. TIMES -- "Border wall prototypes could start going up in San Diego this summer, U.S. official says," by Joseph Tanfani: "The Trump administration is at least two months away from starting construction of prototypes for a wall along the Southwest border, underscoring the difficulties the White House faces making good on one of the president's key campaign promises.

"Customs and Border Protection still has not signed any contracts to build prototypes of new barriers, a first step in plans to design and erect a wall along the 2,000-mile Mexico border, Ronald Vitiello, acting deputy commissioner at the agency, told reporters Tuesday. He said construction of four to eight prototypes could begin by late summer. All will be built near the San Diego-area border fence. 'We're evaluating proposals now.' he said. 'We think it's summer. It's kind of hard to nail down.'" https://lat.ms/2sQnmow

2018 WATCH -- "Midterms Ioom over Mueller's Russia probe: Comey's handling of Clinton email investigation poses challenge for special counsel working amid 2018 campaign," by Darren Samuelsohn: "Special counsel Robert Mueller has only just begun investigating whether President Donald Trump's campaign colluded with Russia in last year's election and whether Trump himself obstructed justice, but there are already fears that he'll face pressure to reveal his conclusions before the 2018 midterms. While it's unclear how long it will take Mueller to wrap up his investigation, veterans of past White House scandals say that with the

midterms already being framed as a referendum on Trump's presidency, both Republicans and Democrats can be expected to push Mueller to go public with whatever he has before voters go to the polls." http://politi.co/2sfSAQd

DEPT. OF BIG STATEMENTS -- "Fed's Yellen expects no new financial crisis in 'our lifetimes," by Reuters: "U.S. Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen said on Tuesday that she does not believe that there will be another financial crisis for at least as long as she lives, thanks largely to reforms of the banking system since the 2007-09 crash. 'Would I say there will never, ever be another financial crisis?' Yellen said at a question-and-answer event in London. 'You know probably that would be going too far but I do think we're much safer and I hope that it will not be in our lifetimes and I don't believe it will be,' she said." http://reut.rs/2sg2Fwv

****** A message from the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD): A new study projects pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) will save Medicare Part D \$896 billion over ten years. PBMs drive savings for taxpayers and seniors by negotiating discounts from drug manufacturers; by encouraging the use of lower cost, clinically equivalent drugs; and by providing clinical programs that improve health outcomes. Learn more at affordable prescription drugs.org ******

AMBASSADOR WATCH -- "Delays stack up for Trump in filling ambassador posts," by Nancy Cook and Nahal Toosi: "President Donald Trump said before he took office that he planned to choose New York Jets owner Woody Johnson, a campaign supporter and old friend, as his ambassador to Britain. But it took until this week for the White House to formally submit Johnson's nomination to the Senate. So far, Trump has nominated 20 ambassadors, with six confirmed, including the ambassador to the United Nations, according to the American Foreign Service Association. By this point in their first terms, President Barack Obama had nominated 40 ambassadors with three confirmed excluding the UN ambassador, while President George W. Bush had nominated 27, with three confirmed, according to statistics compiled by the non-partisan Partnership for Public Service.

"The Trump administration is taking 77 days on average to confirm ambassadors to countries, while Obama nominees 26 days and Bush's 11, according to the Partnership for Public Service. The slow pace of selecting key American representatives abroad is hurting the U.S. diplomatically, as foreign leaders try to suss out the administration's worldview and their place within it, according to interviews with more than a dozen foreign policy experts, current and former ambassadors, and sources familiar with the hiring process." http://politi.co/2tVuwPX

MEDIAWATCH -- "Sinclair VP donated to Gianforte after 'body-slam' incident," by Hadas Gold: "The vice president and director of Sinclair Broadcasting Group, which has often been criticized for its conservative slant, donated to Rep. Greg Gianforte's campaign the day after the Montana Republican was charged with assaulting a reporter. The donation of \$1,000 by Frederick G. Smith, a member of the family that owns the company, came on May 25, the day Gianforte was elected ... Smith also gave \$1,000 to Gianforte's campaign in March. On May 24, Gianforte assaulted Guardian reporter Ben Jacobs as Jacobs attempted to ask Gianforte a question about the healthcare bill, breaking Jacobs' glasses and sending him to the hospital for X-rays."

http://politi.co/2tnL5GW

DAVID FAHRENTHOLD STRIKES AGAIN -- "A Time magazine with Trump on the cover hangs in his golf clubs. It's fake": "The framed copy of Time magazine was hung up in at least five of President Trump's clubs, from South Florida to Scotland. Filling the entire cover was a photo of Donald Trump. 'Donald Trump: The

"Apprentice" is a television smash!' the big headline said. Above the Time nameplate, there was another headline in all caps: "TRUMP IS HITTING ON ALL FRONTS ... EVEN TV!' This cover [is] dated March 1, 2009. ... The Time cover is a fake. There was no March 1, 2009, issue of Time magazine. And there was no issue at all in 2009 that had Trump on the cover." http://wapo.st/2sl9N5X

-- "The Washington Post's New Social Media Policy Forbids Disparaging Advertisers," by Washingtonian's Andrew Beaujon: "A new social-media policy at the Washington Post prohibits conduct on social media that 'adversely affects The Post's customers, advertisers, subscribers, vendors, suppliers or partners.' In such cases, Post management reserves the right to take disciplinary action 'up to and including termination of employment.' The Post's Guild sent out a bulletin Sunday night protesting the policy. ... [T]he policy ... went into effect on May 1 and applies to the entire company." http://bit.ly/2tjtzCW

PLAYBOOK ERS

SPOTTED: Eliot Spitzer last night at Off the Record at the Hay Adams ... former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean in a private room at Carmine's with LaToia Jones and several others ... Ivanka and Jared at Kinship yesterday ... Gary Cohn having dinner last night with friends at Le Diplomate ... Scott Pruitt was also spotted there at another table ... Steve Wynn smoking a cigar yesterday upon arriving Trump International Hotel DC - he's in town for tonight's RNC fundraiser with President Trump and First Lady Melania on Wednesday at the hotel (the fundraiser costs \$35K per person and \$100K to host) ... Oil baron Harold Hamm dining last night at Trump Hotel's BLT Prime ...

... Sen. Thad Cochran (R-Miss.) dining with a group on the Trattoria Alberto patio Tuesday night. Sen. Tammy Baldwin (R-Wis.) was also spotted leaving the restaurant separately. Rep. Blake Farenthold (R-Texas) popped in for dinner later. ... Rep. Marcia Fudge (D-Ohio) chatting on her cell phone on 8th Street near Banana Cafe around 8 p.m. ... Jonathan Capehart and Nick Schmit dining with Chris Jansing last night at Kinship

-- **@MattLasio**: "Illinois Rep. Adam Kinzinger is at tonight's Cubs/Nationals game and has had his back to the field the entire time at a table in outfield" http://bit.ly/2tntWNx

OUT AND ABOUT IN ASPEN - The Paul E. Singer Foundation held a dinner last night focused on driverless cars at Laura and Gary Lauder's home in Aspen (*pic of the house:* http://bit.ly/2uhElXJ). In a panel discussion before the meal, Amnon Shashua, co-founder and CTO of Israeli technology company Mobileye (which Intel bought for \$15 billion), talked about the future of driverless cars and predicted that in 2021, you would see them available for purchase. Moderator David Leonhardt reminded the crowd that there are around 1000 deaths every nine days due to car accidents. Shashua said companies have to ensure that the technology advances far enough that there are under 100 deaths each year from self-driving cars. He said the public would not allow "1,000 people to die" every year because of the new technology. He also said that four months ago, Uber was a big player in self-driving cars but now "it's uncertain" because of Travis Kalanick's departure. "It's like firing Steve Jobs from Apple," he said. Another word of wisdom from him: "Companies that don't master AI in won't be around in 10 to 15 years."

SPOTTED: Haim Saban chatting with Andrea Mitchell and Richard Haass, Cheryl Saban, Karen Davidson, Paul Singer, Terry Kassel, Amnon Shashua, Dan Senor, Campbell Brown, Walter Isaacson, New Orleans Mayor

Mitch Landrieu, Katie Couric and John Molner, Ory Rinat, Bonnie Lautenberg and Steve Leber, Mitch Julis, Amb. John Loeb, Blain Rethmeier, former U.S. Amb. to Canada Bruce Heyman, Eugene Kandel, Derek Thompson, Dafna Linzer, Susan Mercandetti, Bob and Susan Oberndorf, Max Neuberger, Eliot Gerson, David Zalaznick, Henry Elkus.

- -- SPOTTED at a Facebook reception last night at the Marble Garden Tent on the Aspen Institute grounds: Campbell Brown, Samidh Chakrabarti, Walter Isaacson, Kitty Boone, Richard Haass, Jon Lovett, Manoush Zomorodi, Kevin Delaney, Anil Dash, Anne Kornblut, Dafna Linzer, Steve Clemons, Carl Zimmer, Simon Sinek, Garrett Graff, Lee Rainie, Charles "Lil Buck" Riley, Blain Rethmeier, Erika Masonhall, Erin Miller, Max Neuberger, Jonathan Taplin, Doug Farrar, Graham Veysey.
- --SPOTTED at the nearby Southern Company reception last night: Fareed Zakaria chatting with Steve Clemons, Ory Rinat chatting with Kyle Dropp and Amy Walter, Southern Company CEO Tom Fanning, Blain Rethmeier chatting with Gloria Dittus and Emily Lenzner, Eric Kuhn.

ENGAGED - Hayley Andrews, director of government affairs at the Charles Group and travel blogger at Navigate Abroad (http://bit.ly/2tjP2ff), got engaged yesterday to **Eugene Gelfgat**, a lieutenant in the Army. He proposed inside the Grand Canyon after they flew in on a helicopter. They met as GW students on a Birthright Israel trip to Israel in 2010. **Pics** http://bit.ly/2tjDwjZ ... http://bit.ly/2soHfiS

TRANSITIONS -- PR firm Strategic Elements has hired **Diane Miller** as senior adviser. Last year Miller founded the virtual think-tank Women's Influence Institute ... Red Alert Politics has hired **Lauren Cooley** as contributors' editor.

BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: Jane Harman, director, president and CEO of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. How she got her start in politics: "Attended the 1960 convention as a high school kid and was totally inspired by John Kennedy." Read her Playbook Plus Q&A: http://politi.co/2sQ9fZ9

BIRTHDAYS: Marc Kasowitz is 65 ... Ashley Hickey Marquis, chief of staff to NEC director Gary Cohn, who celebrated with a weekend BBQ and tonight at Mirabelle with her husband Garrett (hubby tip: Garrett) ... NYT's David Kirkpatrick is 47 ... former Defense Secretary Leon Panetta is 79 ... former Sen. Carl Levin (D-Mich.) is 83 ... Laura D'Andrea Tyson, professor at Berkeley's Haas business school ... Ziad "Z" Ojakli, Ford Group VP of gov't and community relations (h/t Christin Baker) ... Bill Greener, founding partner of Greener & Hook LLC ... AP's Jesse Holland ... Climatewire's Scott Waldman ... former Rep. Donna Edwards (D-Md.) is 59 ... former Rep. Michael Fitzpatrick (R-Penn.) is 54 ... former Rep. Jim Kolbe (D-Ariz.) is 74 ... journalist and author Kurt Eichenwald is 56 ... Stephanie Benedict, who has been crisscrossing the country for the Clinton campaign ... LJR's Erin McPike (h/t Alex Skatell) ... Nancy Payne, VP of PeaceTech Lab, former OPIC and FleishmanHillard International (h/t Ben Chang and Jon Haber) ... Carolyn Coda of Swiss Re (hubby tip: Rich Ward) ... Steve Johnson, EVP of American Airlines and an avid Playbooker (h/ts Hilary Rosen and Shannon Gilson) ...

... **Stephanie Benedict**, alum of Waxman, HFA, and Albright Stonebridge, celebrating with family in San Luis Obispo, CA (h/t mom Paula Benedict) ... Lara Kline (h/t Jon Haber) ... Brian L. Roberts, chairman and CEO of Comcast is 58 (h/t Jewish Insider) ... Mike Lurie, senior creative advisor at Freedom Partners, is 3-0 (h/t his loving girlfriend Rebecca Coffman) ... B. Scott Tilley, general counsel at Stihl Inc. and former Capitol Hill intern (h/t Bruce Potter) ... John Lee is 24 ... Peter Nonis of the Business Council for International Understanding ... Rob Tappan, president of the Tappan Group ... Coddy Johnson is 41 ... Pelosi policy adviser Kenneth DeGraff ...

Jason Roe is 47 ... Brian Jodice ... Paul Bonicelli ... Yaffa Fredrick, CNN Opinion producer ... Megan Bloomgren, VP of comms at API and former acting comms director at Interior earlier this year ... Daisy Capps ... Matt Mele ... Al Eisele ... Aaron Banks ... Bob Russell ... Quinn McCord ... Kevin Kaiser ... Jing Ulrich, managing director and vice chairman, Asia Pacific at JPMorgan Chase ... Sean Bartel ... AP Florida reporter Brendan Farrington ... Cecilie Olaussen ... Nick Anton ... Dusky Terry ... Brenda Vilmain ... Meagan Mahaffey ... Chuck Shuford ... Dave Olsen ... Eli Reyes ... Christina Martin ... John Elway is 57 ... Eric Zwiener ... GPG's Jas Sajjan ... comedianmovie director Mel Brooks is 91 ... Kathy Bates is 69 ... John Cusack is 51 (h/ts AP)

****** A message from the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD): A new study estimates that Medicare Part D costs would be 58 percent higher without pharmacy benefit managers' (PBMs') clinical tools and price negotiations with drug manufacturers and pharmacies. The study shows PBMs significantly lower premiums and out-of-pocket costs for Medicare beneficiaries. In fact, PBMs are projected to save Medicare Part D \$896 billion over the next decade. Thanks to PBMs, Medicare Part D continues to drive savings and value for taxpayers and beneficiaries, ensuring that more than 39 million American seniors can access the prescription drugs they need. Learn more at affordableprescriptiondrugs.org *******

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Message

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Subject: Morning Energy: Trump takes the stage — Plenty of room at the White House inn — One-on-one with Barrasso

By Kelsey Tamborrino | 01/26/2018 05:42 AM EDT

With help from Eric Wolff

TRUMP TAKES THE STAGE: President Donald Trump is set to speak this morning from Davos, Switzerland, where he'll deliver a simple message to world leaders: "A prosperous America benefits the world, and fair economic competition is essential to that prosperity," the White House said. Trump prepared for his speech Thursday by meeting with longtime U.S. allies: The prime ministers of Great Britain and Israel, and he declared that he had arrived with a message of "peace and prosperity." More on that here.

"When I decided to come to Davos, I didn't think in terms of elitists or globalists, I thought in terms of lots of people who want to invest lots of money and they're all coming back to the United States. They're coming back to America, and I thought of it much more in those terms," Trump explained in an interview with CNBC. "After I said that I was going, there were massive stories about the elite and the globalists and the planes flying in and everything else. It's not about that. It's about coming to America, investing your money, creating jobs, companies coming in. We're setting records. Every day, we're setting records."

Already "energy dominance" remarks emerged this week from Energy Secretary Rick Perry, but watch for Trump to tout trade policy in his address to the World Economic Forum, including his brand new tariffs on solar equipment. The White House outlined that the president will describe how "America First" fits into a the forum's theme of "a shared future in a fractured world." On trade, Trump will likely discuss the administration's support of trade that is fair and reciprocal to the U.S. "The global economy cannot flourish unless all countries follow the rules and are held responsible when they don't," the White House said. The president is also looking to "forge closer ties" with allies, including French President Emmanuel Macron and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau — who have bumped heads with Trump on trade and climate policies in the past. Watch it here.

HAPPY FRIDAY! I'm your host Kelsey Tamborrino. Many of you were very close, but no one guessed that in 1975, the Senate adopted a rule requiring most of its committees to work in public. That same year, the Senate approved open conference committee sessions. For today: How many senators attended the world premiere of "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" held at Constitution Hall? Send your tips, energy gossip and comments to ktamborrino@politico.com, or follow us on Twitter @kelseytam, @Morning Energy and @POLITICOPro.

PLENTY OF ROOM AT THE WHITE HOUSE INN: Republican lawmakers are increasingly concerned that the Trump administration has yet to fill several energy-related vacancies across the federal government. A year out from Trump's inauguration, still no name has been selected for key positions, including overseeing EPA's Superfund program or to lead the Bureau of Land Management or National Park Service, Pro's Anthony Adragna reports.

Let's break this down: Trump has yet to nominate 244 people out of the 635 key positions requiring Senate confirmation, according to a <u>tracker</u> from The Washington Post and Partnership for Public Service. Of those, there are no nominees for seven of the 17 slots at Interior requiring Senate confirmation, Anthony reports. At EPA, it's six of 13 spots, and 11 of 22 positions at the Energy Department. There's also been no movement on vacancies within the White House's Office of Science and Technology Policy, including the top spot, the longest that role has gone without a nominee.

Why, you ask? Some Republicans blame Democrats for drawing out the confirmation process, which others say has driven other potential candidates to opt out of government service altogether. But Trump himself vowed in an <u>interview</u> with Forbes in November that he didn't intend to fill out agency staffing. "I'm generally not going to make a lot of the appointments that would normally be — because you don't need them," Trump said.

Still, the vacancies are cause for frustration for many: "It has to make it just that much more difficult within the agencies to just be so short-teamed," Senate Energy Chairman <u>Lisa Murkowski</u> said. "I know people who have been nominated already who are getting really frustrated. It's demoralizing," Sen. <u>Dan Sullivan</u> said. "They have real lives. They have bills they got to pay. We need to do better." Read the story <u>here</u>.

ONE-ON-ONE WITH BARRASSO: What's Year 2 atop Senate EPW mean for Wyoming's <u>John Barrasso</u>? In an interview with Anthony, Barrasso echoes the White House's focus on infrastructure, praises his Democratic cohort <u>Tom Carper</u> and discusses where exactly he falls in ongoing talks on the Renewable Fuel Standard. **Some highlights from <u>the exclusive interview</u>:**

On infrastructure: "[P]art of what we're doing with WRDA right now is infrastructure. Water resource development is infrastructure. But you need to deal with the roads, the highways, the bridges, the dams, all of it out there. So, I'm optimistic. We'll be discussing it at the retreat and I hope the president brings it up in the State of the Union. And I mentioned that to both [National Economic Council] Director [Gary] Cohn and [Transportation] Secretary [Elaine] Chao that I think it would be good to have the president put some meat on the bones during the State of the Union address next Tuesday."

On paying for it: "There's a difference between rural and urban. Public-private partnerships] can work in urban areas. They're not going to work in rural areas."

On Renewable Fuel Standard talks: "If a refinery goes bankrupt because of a system that the government put in place after the refinery was built, that's not a system that's worked. So we need to modernize and modernize this to take into account where we are today with the technology and the vehicles and the amount of fuel being consumed. [Sen. John Cornyn's] leading the efforts to develop this bipartisan reform bill that all the stakeholders can support and then once that's introduced the committee is going to give it serious consideration."

ONCE-IN POLICY NO MORE: EPA air chief Bill Wehrum withdrew Clinton-era guidance Thursday that was designed to prevent major emitters from getting out of strict requirements to limit their toxic air emissions. "This guidance is based on a plain language reading of the statute that is in line with EPA's guidance for other provisions of the Clean Air Act," Wehrum said in a statement. "It will reduce regulatory burden for industries and the states, while continuing to ensure stringent and effective controls on hazardous air pollutants." In a memo, EPA revoked the 1995 so-called once-in always-in policy and said it would consider new regulations to clarify its interpretation of the law, Pro's Alex Guillén reports. Under the previous policy, any emitter that qualified as a "major" source of hazardous air pollutants, like power plants and factories, would forever be subject to that tougher standard to comply with MACT rules, even if its emissions dropped low enough to be considered an "area" source subject to fewer or no requirements, Alex writes. Read the memo here.

Barrasso and Sen. Shelley Moore Capito previously asked EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt to withdraw the policy earlier this month, they said on Thursday, cheering the move. "Withdrawal of this policy means manufacturers, oil and gas operations, and other types of industrial facilities will have greater incentive to reduce emissions," Barrasso said in a statement. "Now these companies can help protect the environment without wasting time and money on unnecessary red tape."

Not so fast: Ed Markey said the move "could be the worst environmental sin yet from the Trump administration." Greens were also quick to call out the decision; The League of Conservation Voters's Sara Chieffo called it a "gutting" of public health protections.

by Sen. <u>Chuck Grassley</u> and some Midwestern senators still has life. <u>Orrin Hatch</u>'s tax extenders bill revives the credit for blenders of biodiesel, but the Finance committee members are still considering moving it to a producers credit, according to Derek Theurer, an aide to <u>Bill Cassidy</u> who was only speaking at a Jones Day tax conference Thursday. "There's members on the Senate side that have views both ways. Some that would like to move to producers' credits, others that are concerned about impact on consumers, the price of fuel," he said. "That's the kind of competing interests being weighed and members are continuing to discuss it."

TERMS AGREED IN SUNCOKE SETTLEMENT: Metallurgical coke producer SunCoke Energy and Cokenergy reached an agreement to resolve alleged Clean Air Act violations related to leaking coke ovens and excessive bypass venting of hot coking gases, the Justice Department said. A consent decree requires estimated annual emissions reductions of 2,075 tons of coke oven emissions and requires coke oven rebuilds, DOJ said. Cokenergy will also spend \$250,000 on a lead abatement project in the East Chicago area. DOJ added, the companies "agreed to enhanced monitoring and testing requirements, including two stack tests to measure lead emissions," and will pay a \$5 million civil penalty. "Today's settlement is one example of how EPA is committed to reducing exposure to lead and other contaminants in communities across the country," Pruitt said on Thursday. "Lead exposure is a serious problem and reducing it is a priority for EPA."

PRUITT AND THE PRESS: E&E News chronicles Pruitt's relationship with the press in a lengthy story from Thursday on the EPA chief's tour through the country on the Waters of the U.S. rule. Based on roughly thousands of pages of documents obtained through public records requests to multiple states, E&E's Ariel Wittenberg and Kevin Bogardus piece together Pruitt's press strategy. Read it <a href="https://example.com/here-example

CALIFORNIA CALLING: California Gov. Jerry Brown celebrated the Golden State and rebuked the president's climate agenda Thursday during his final "State of the State" address. The governor "rallied this bulwark of the Democratic Party to push forward on climate change, immigration and high-speed rail, signaling another year of conflict between Washington and the nation's most populous state," POLITICO's David Siders and Carla Marinucci report. "Despite what is widely believed by some of the most powerful people in Washington, the science of climate change is not in doubt," the Democratic governor said Thursday. "All nations agree except one, and that is solely because of one man: our current president." Brown added, "Here in California, we follow a different path."

Brown's agenda, which includes fighting climate change, putting 5 million zero-emission vehicles on the road by 2030 and defending a state gas tax increase, "stands starkly at odds with the White House, and the governor cut at Trump implicitly," David and Carla write, setting the stage for year another of year of Washington fights from the state. It also continues a yearlong trend of feuding with Trump for the coastal state, with tensions heightening already this year. Earlier this week, state Attorney General Xavier Becerra filed a lawsuit challenging the administration's repeal of an Obama-era fracking rule, and on Thursday, the California delegation, including Sens. Kamala Harris and Dianne Feinstein, wrote to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, requesting Californians be able to comment on the offshore drilling proposal. Read more here.

DINNER WITH TRUMP: The president had dinner in Davos with multinational business leaders Thursday, including Eldar Saetre of Norway's Statoil ASA and Patrick Pouyanne of France's Total SA. Much like his Cabinet meetings, Trump went around the table and had each participant discuss his business. At one point, Pouyanne said his company was investing in renewables, joking to Trump, "and maybe you disagree." Saetre, meanwhile, used his time to congratulate Trump on tax reform. "I think that is really good news, for all of us here, but for oil and gas and our industry."

SOUTH KOREA WANTS SOLAR CONSULTATION: South Korea asked the WTO twice separately this week for a consultation with the U.S. on its recent <u>solar tariff</u> and <u>washing machine</u> decisions. Korea argues the U.S. violated several international trade rules in its action, Pro's Adam Behsudi <u>reports</u>. Separate from the WTO's dispute settlement process, the requests kick-start a process under the WTO's safeguards agreement.

WEATHER CHANNEL TAKES STAND ON CLIMATE: The Weather Channel website took a stance on climate change Thursday, posting a banner that blared "THERE IS NO CLIMATE CHANGE DEBATE," and linked to a series of stories showing its effect. The company posted a <u>statement</u> detailing its "United States of Climate Change" project that will focus on such stories, but will not debate the science of climate change. "We're going to see how individuals, communities and businesses are responding to the changes that are already happening in America, and how they're preparing for the changes that have yet to occur," the website wrote.

LCV ENDORSES IN ILLINOIS: The LCV Action Fund backed two congressional candidates on Thursday: Brendan Kelly for Illinois' 12th District and Erik Jones in the 13th District. "Brendan Kelly and Erik Jones are exciting new voices for climate action and environmental protection," said LCV Action Fund Senior Vice President of Government Affairs Tiernan Sittenfeld.

MAIL CALL: General president of the United Association, Mark McManus, penned a letter to Trump on Thursday, on the Renewable Fuel Standard and bankruptcy of Philadelphia Energy Solutions. Read the letter here.

MOVER, SHAKER: The Trust for Public Land announced Thursday that Diane Regas will be the organization's new president and CEO. Regas is currently executive director of Environmental Defense Fund.

OUICK HITS

- Trump wanted to know how U.S. stacks up to Russia on science, E&E News.
- FirstEnergy executive: Davis-Besse plant headed for premature closure, The Blade.
- A University of Cincinnati professor wanted to work for Trump's EPA. He ended up demonized and jobless, Cincinnati.com.
- Trump's solar tariff leaves state renewables targets in limbo, Bloomberg.
- Puerto Rico offers fiscal plan settling debt for pennies on the dollar, The Washington Post.
- Scientists are calling on the American Museum Of Natural History to cut ties with the Mercers, BuzzFeed.

HAPPENING TODAY

1:10 p.m. — The College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability and Environmental Sciences and the Citizens' Climate Lobby hold the 2018 <u>Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference</u>, 4200 Connecticut Avenue NW

3:00 p.m. — The Society of Environmental Journalists, George Mason University and the Wilson Center hold an event on "2018 Journalists' Guide to Energy and Environment," 1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW

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To view online:

https://www.politicopro.com/newsletters/morning-energy/2018/01/trump-takes-the-stage-084081

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World nervously watches Trump's Davos debut Back

By Louis Nelson | 01/25/2018 11:45 AM EDT

President Donald Trump arrived at the World Economic Forum in Switzerland Thursday a man on a mission: to demonstrate his prowess on the world stage to a mountain town full of political and business leaders skeptical of his administration.

In a pair of bilateral meetings with the prime ministers of Great Britain and Israel, Trump touted his White House's warm ties with each nation, both longtime steadfast U.S. allies. As he entered the forum's hall, Trump declared that he had arrived with a message of "peace and prosperity." He basked in warm praise from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and seemingly sought to smooth a reported rift in his relationship with his British counterpart, Theresa May.

That Trump was in attendance at Davos, considered a meeting of international elites where globalism is often championed, seemed strange for a president who campaigned on and has governed with an "America First" agenda that is skeptical of multinational trade agreements and of U.S. participation in international organizations like the United Nations. Trump is the first U.S. president to attend the annual gathering in Switzerland since Bill Clinton in 2000, his final year in office.

"When I decided to come to Davos, I didn't think in terms of elitists or globalists, I thought in terms of lots of people who want to invest lots of money and they're all coming back to the United States. They're coming back to America, and I thought of it much more in those terms," Trump explained in an interview with CNBC. "After I said that I was going, there were massive stories about the elite and the globalists and the planes flying in and everything else. It's not about that. It's about coming to America, investing your money, creating jobs, companies coming in. We're setting records. Every day, we're setting records."

But while Trump's particular style of politics <u>continues</u> to rattle the international political and economic types who regularly attend Davos, the first year of his presidency seems to have calmed some, at least in the latter group. The U.S. economy has performed well through Trump's first year in office, as have other prominent economies worldwide. Many at Davos predicted the tax cut and reform legislation signed by the president last year will further spur the U.S. economy.

"There's been a lot of warmth, a lot of respect for our country, and a lot of money, billions and billions of dollars is coming into the U.S., and people are very happy with what we've done, not only on the tax bill, but also cutting of regulations, and I think also being a cheerleader for our country," Trump told reporters at a group dinner Thursday evening in Switzerland. "You know, if you're not a cheerleader for your company or for your country, no matter what happens, it's not going to work. And that's what I've been and that's what my whole group has been."

Still, Trump's bombast continues to stir nervousness and the president is not generally highly regarded among those flocking to the Swiss ski town this week. Trump is scheduled to give a speech Friday at the forum, for which Marietje Schaake, a prominent Dutch politician in the European Parliament, offered this prediction: "With low expectations, it will not take much to exceed them," adding that "at the end of the day, while words matter, actions always speak louder than words."

With May, Trump offered the pool of reporters traveling with him at the forum in Davos assurances that the pair continues to share "a really great relationship," that he has "tremendous respect" for his British counterpart and that "the feeling is mutual from the standpoint of liking each other a lot."

Trump said the U.S. and Britain are "joined at the hip" on military issues and told May "there's nothing that would happen to you that we won't be there to fight for you. You know that."

A spokesman for May said the pair discussed the need to cooperate on peacekeeping efforts such as working "to ensure Iran does not develop nuclear weapons."

The leaders, Downing Street said, agreed to continue "to stand side-by-side" in their fight against the Islamic State.

The president's reassurances follow a relatively rocky patch in the U.S.-U.K. "special relationship" that included Trump's abrupt cancellation of a trip to London (placing the blame for that cancellation, incorrectly, on his predecessor, Barack Obama) and his sharing on Twitter of anti-Muslim videos posted by a leader from a British far-right, ultranationalist group. The latter offense earned Trump a rebuke from a May spokesman.

Trump and May directed officials to finalize arrangements for a visit by the U.S. leader to the U.K. sometime this year, May's spokesperson said.

With Netanyahu, the conversation in front of the cameras focused largely on the president's announcement last month that the U.S. would recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital and begin the process of moving its embassy there. Netanyahu heaped praise on the president for the controversial decision, criticized even by close U.S. allies, telling him that the decision would be "forever etched on the hearts of our people for generations to come."

While Trump's bombastic style, unpredictability and willingness to diverge from the norms of past White House occupants has seemingly injected doubt into U.S. relationships around the globe, the president's stridently pro-Israel positions have strengthened the bond between the two nations, which sunk to a low point during the Obama administration.

Netanyahu in particular praised Trump for the skeptical eye with which he has viewed the landmark nuclear agreement the U.S. helped negotiate with Iran, telling the president and the assembled media that Israel would "back you all the way" should he decide to pull the U.S. from the agreement championed by Obama's White House

"I've never seen the realistic alliance between the United States, Israel and your other allies in the region as strong, as unified as it is under your leadership," Netanyahu said. "As you finish your first year in office, I want to say that I look forward to continuing our remarkable, tremendous friendship in the years ahead, and I want to express the appreciation of the people of Israel to you. Thank you, Mr. President."

Cristiano Lima contributed to this report.

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Republicans frustrated by lingering agency vacancies Back

By Anthony Adragna | 01/26/2018 05:01 AM EDT

Republican lawmakers are growing impatient with the Trump administration's delays in nominating candidates for energy-related positions across the federal government, creating a vacancy problem that experts say could lead to missed opportunities to put GOP policies into action.

More than a year after President Donald Trump entered the White House, the administration hasn't picked anyone to run key positions such as the office overseeing EPA's Superfund program, a focal point of Administrator Scott Pruitt's agenda. There's no one formally selected to lead the Bureau of Land Management or National Park Service, key positions in rolling out Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's public lands plans.

"It has to make it just that much more difficult within the agencies to just be so short-teamed," Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) told POLITICO.

In total, there are currently no nominees for seven of the 17 slots at Interior requiring Senate confirmation. The figure at EPA stands at six of 13 spots, while 11 of 22 positions at the Energy Department have no nominee. There's also been no movement on vacancies within the White House's Office of Science and Technology Policy, including the top spot, the longest that role has gone without a nominee.

The White House did not respond to a request for comment on whether it planned to nominate officials to the vacancies.

Some Republican lawmakers laid the blame on Democrats for drawing out the Senate confirmation process procedurally, which they say created a nomination backlog that has lessened the pressure on Trump to add more names to the waiting list. Others say lengthy confirmation battles that have forced some nominees to wait over a year for a vote have prompted potential candidates to opt of government service.

But whatever the reason, spots critical to the agendas of Cabinet members remain unfilled.

"I hear some of my colleagues just laying the blame right at the feet of the [Democrats], and, when it comes to slowing things down procedurally on the floor, there's clearly blame there," Murkowski said. "But if we don't even have the names that we can process through the committee to get to the floor, then you can't pass that blame off to the Democrats. There are things that need to happen within the administration."

The lingering vacancies perhaps should not be surprising given Trump's vows in a November <u>interview</u> with Forbes that he didn't intend to fill out agency staffing. "I'm generally not going to make a lot of the appointments that would normally be — because you don't need them," Trump said, calling some of the positions "totally unnecessary."

To date, only 331 Trump administration nominees have been confirmed by the Senate compared to 468 OK'd by the same point in the Obama administration.

Donald Kettl, a professor with the University of Maryland's School of Public Policy, said that while there are some signs of a slowdown of nominations in the Senate — it's taken Trump nominees an average of 72 days for confirmation compared to 54 days for Obama nominees over the same time period — there's not "a lot of evidence" that difference stems primarily from Democratic intransigence.

"Are the Democrats responsible for some of it? Sure," he said. "Are they primarily responsible for the pace of the nominations? No."

Experts say a slow start by the administration in nominating people, delays in completing paperwork for Congress and a packed Senate calendar that included major pushes on health care and taxes also contributed to a slow pace of conformations.

"Democrats are not to blame on this one," Paul Light, a professor at New York University's Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, said. "Although they do have somewhat more freedom to ask nominees to answer written responses to questions and are demanding more formal confirmation votes, Republicans simply did not have the nominees to send to the floor when they had the muscle. Timing is everything here. Again, steady wins the prize."

Still, lawmakers say the lengthy confirmation battles are making harder to attract people willing to serve in government.

"It's a vicious cycle because if you can't get the assistant secretary of whatever in, then it's hard to get the BLM director in," Sen. <u>Dan Sullivan</u> (R-Alaska) said. "I know people who have been nominated already who are getting really frustrated. It's demoralizing. They have real lives. They have bills they got to pay. We need to do better."

Other lawmakers said that while they'd like to see the slots filled eventually, the immediate impacts on agency work would be limited.

"Would I like to see them? Yeah. Does it hamper the ability to move the agenda? No," House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop (R-Utah) said. "Many of the acting directors that they have right now in those areas are people that I know and respect and they're moving in the right direction, so I'm comfortable with them."

Some experts disagree, though, and say relying on acting officials to occupy positions requiring Senate confirmation indefinitely has consequences, since nominees undergo strict scrutiny during the process and must prove their credentials, and acting officials don't have the same political capital to move major initiatives.

"When agencies are unstaffed or lacking qualified leadership, it has an acute, corrosive effect," said William Buzbee, a law professor at Georgetown University. "That kind of effect is felt quite quickly."

Lobbying efforts continue behind the scenes from some lawmakers to get the empty slots filled. Senate Environment and Public Works Chairman John Barrasso (R-Wyo.), for example, said he continues to regularly discuss personnel matters with White House staff.

Some experts say the administration may be intentionally keeping some acting officials in positions since they doubt they could pass congressional muster. They point to Albert Kelly, Pruitt's senior adviser on Superfund issues, who joined the agency just weeks after agreeing to be banned from working in the banking industry.

Cary Coglianese, a law professor at the University of Pennsylvania, said it was "troubling" to see the administration relying so heavily on acting officials since Republicans control the Senate.

"When an administration has a Senate majority of the same party and it's still worrying it can't get its nominees through, then it makes you wonder what kind of quality or what kind of views these nominees might have," he said. "It shouldn't be so surprising that a minority party is going to be employ whatever procedural hurdles or delays they have available to them."

Others blame the continued vacancies squarely on Democratic resistance. Congressional Western Caucus Chairman Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.) said the unfilled roles are "no failing" of Trump officials since nominations continue to actually outpace Senate confirmations.

"Vacancies for which there are no pending nominations might be a concern if Senate Democrats were not slow-walking or opposing every nominee proposed — but they are," Gosar said in a statement. "And while it is obviously preferable that an Administration receive the staffing to which it is entitled, the Trump

Administration has been able to make remarkable progress on land, resource and energy issues even in the face of that nomination stonewalling."

For their part, Democrats say they aren't surprised by the lagging nominations, and some see it as part of a broader administration to systematically weaken federal agencies through neglect.

"I think they'll stay vacant for a while," House Natural Resources ranking member <u>Raúl M. Grijalva</u> (D-Ariz.) told POLITICO. "I almost think there's a deliberateness not to do that — to let it through atrophy just die on the vine."

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POLITICO Pro Q&A: Senate EPW Chairman John Barrasso Back

By Anthony Adragna | 01/25/2018 04:02 PM EDT

Sen. <u>John Barrasso</u> begins his second year atop the Environment and Public Works Committee, and he says he's committed to moving an infrastructure package that he expects will have "presidential commitment and muscle behind it."

In an interview, Barrasso says he's urged administration officials to press President Donald Trump to "put some meat on the bones" of the infrastructure plan during the State of the Union address, and he wants to set deadlines of two years for federal permit approvals for projects.

And Barrasso is taking part in talks to alter the nation's biofuel program, and if legislation to revamp the Renewable Fuel Standard emerges, EPW would give "serious consideration" to proposals to modernize the program.

The following transcript has been edited for length and clarity.

An infrastructure package is a key priority for 2018. Sen. <u>Jim Inhofe</u> said he was "<u>frustrated</u>" the White House's plan has yet to emerge and Sen. <u>John Thune</u> said the president would have to <u>show real</u> leadership to get something done this year. Do you share their concerns?

At the committee meeting last week we had both Secretary of Transportation [Elaine] Chao, as well as [National Economic Council director] Gary Cohn attending and visiting with us about infrastructure. And this was a bipartisan meeting. We had most of the members — Republicans and Democrats. We're committed — Republicans and Democrats — to getting something done.

It's a big priority for the committee. I think we've had a very successful 2017 with lots of accomplishments. But infrastructure is clearly a main topic to the point that I believe at our retreat next week, we're going to be having a discussion on infrastructure again with the secretary of Transportation.

So you're optimistic about getting something done even though legislating during an election years can be more difficult?

I'm committed to working with the administration and with the Democrats, and certainly with all the members of our committee on both sides of the aisle, to get something done. I think it's important. We have a need in the community and in the country. There's no question about it.

And part of what we're doing with WRDA right now is infrastructure. Water resource development is infrastructure. But you need to deal with the roads, the highways, the bridges, the dams, all of it out there. So, I'm optimistic. We'll be discussing it at the retreat and I hope the president brings it up in the State of the Union. And I mentioned that to both Director Cohn and Secretary Chao that I think it would be good to have the president put some meat on the bones during the State of the Union address next Tuesday.

Have you ever thought of putting out your own plan since the White House's timeline seems to have slipped?

We've been working on a plan that I've been working on with the Democrats as well. Many of the hearings that we have been infrastructure-related. The president has frequently talked about upgrading the infrastructure of the country, and I think we need a robust infrastructure bill with presidential commitment and muscle behind it. And I believe we'll get it.

Do you see opportunities in the package that emerges to tweak or revisit provisions of the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act and National Environmental Policy Act?

So much of what I'm focused on now are the roads and bridges, but clearly you need to be able to get projects done. You need to be able to streamline this whole process so that projects can be both started faster and finished faster, because you want to make sure taxpayers are getting bang for their buck. You need to have things [so] people feel that they're not just being dragged out. It just seems silly when you see some project that could take months to complete but years to permit — people get the fact that that's a sign of Washington not getting its job done.

Things [have to be] approved by a certain period of time — whether that's two years [or] a shorter period of time. And if they can't get the permits done, at what point do you say, "Look, people have made their best faith effort and this government couldn't get permits done?" To me, that says they ought to be approved if the government can't work its way through the process in a short period of time. Most people around the country don't think two years is a short period of time but for government that's setting speed records.

The perennial issue with infrastructure seems to be paying for it, and I would imagine some of the ideas often floated, like a gas tax hike, are probably non-starters for you. Are there other promising ideas you've seen to date?

There's a difference between rural and urban. [Public-private partnerships] can work in urban areas. They're not going to work in rural areas. So you need federal funding and commitment for rural areas, which aren't going to lend themselves to the partnerships between the public and the private areas. You almost need to look at the two separately and in our discussions with the administration, they do seem to have the two tracks for an urban versus a rural approach. And funding in that.

What's it been like working with the Democrats so far in this? Have Ranking Member <u>Tom Carper</u> and his staff been open partners and also looking to get something done?

Senator Carper is actually a very good partner to work with. He was here visiting with me today for a half an hour in my office. I go visit with him and we visit on the floor frequently. We had four dozen hearings last year, advanced a lot of nominations, passed a lot of different legislation of all different kinds.

We have all these discussions about how to more quickly update and modernize the permitting process and also how to pay for things. His model and mine are a little different on the funding, but we know we need to get this done and find a way to do this. The EPW committee, from a public works standpoint, has had a lot of success in the past. It's done a lot of work in a bipartisan way. I think we've worked very closely, both sides of the aisle, to make sure the people who came in to testify — and clearly I had a lot of people from Wyoming to talk about rural issues and rural needs and why they're unique — but I think every member of the committee would say they've felt they've had an opportunity to bring somebody in from their state to make the case about what their specific needs could be whether it's highways, bridges, dams, water, ports, you name it.

Have you been participating in the talks between Sen. <u>John Cornyn</u> and other senators on Renewable Fuel Standard issues? And do you think there's a compromise possible on biofuels that can get through your committee?

I've been part of those discussions, yes.

We need a solution to the problem. The way that the RFS program was put into place, in my opinion, did not visualize where we are today, with a greater amount of fuel efficiency, with the number of electric vehicles. So the system that was designed was one that just viewed greater and greater volumes of gasoline being used. And didn't take into account some of the changes that we've seen with technology.

If a refinery goes bankrupt because of a system that the government put in place after the refinery was built, that's not a system that's worked. So we need to modernize and modernize this to take into account where we are today with the technology and the vehicles and the amount of fuel being consumed.

[Cornyn's] leading the efforts to develop this bipartisan reform bill that all the stakeholders can support and then once that's introduced the committee is going to give it serious consideration.

A number of the West Coast states have blocked coal export facilities from being built. Is there a role at all for the federal government to intervene?

I think it's important to be able to export coal. People around the world want to buy energy from America. The president talks about energy dominance and we need to use the resources that we have in this country. We've gone from energy security to energy independence to energy dominance. And to be able to use energy as the geopolitical weapon that it can be and deal with how [Russian President Vladimir] Putin uses energy as a weapon, I think we need to make sure that we have opportunities to sell to other countries what we have in the United States in abundance. It's good for our jobs, it's good for the economy. Energy, as a resource, it's called the master resource for a reason because of what it powers. It powers our economy. It powers our jobs. And powers the military. So it's an instrument of power. It's a force multiplier, and I think we should use it as such.

I'd like to see those ports opened up. Many of the workers there want those jobs in those areas but you have this division between the workers — many of whom are union workers — and the environmental extremists who are trying to block them. That's where the loggerheads is and we're trying to get those ports open.

What are your thoughts on being EPW chairman after Year One? Are you enjoying the job so far and how do you balance those responsibilities with your time atop the Senate Republican Policy Committee?

Wyoming [is] such an energy state and, to me, the most beautiful state in the country — and maybe one of the most beautiful places in the world. So what you know is from the standpoint from the people of Wyoming, we have protected our environment. We have great respect for our environment and the best stewards of the land are the people that live on the land. We have a long history of doing it right and we have multiple use of the land in Wyoming. Half of the land in Wyoming is run and owned by the federal government, so we know what

it's like to have such a large federal footprint in the state. And we just believe we ought to be able to use our resources and do it in ways that are respectful of the environment as we have done it.

It's an area that to me is a great deal of focus. It's something I've worked on from the day I showed up in the Senate, the first day I took the oath of office. That hasn't changed. I'm just able to have additional opportunity to bring people back from Wyoming to testify on the topics that are in front of the committee. So I think that helps lend voice to the vision and the values that we have in Wyoming.

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EPA drops 'once in, always in' policy from key Clean Air Act requirements Back

By Alex Guillén | 01/25/2018 06:11 PM EDT

EPA today withdrew a Clinton-era policy that was designed to prevent major emitters like power plants and factories from getting out of tough requirements to limit their toxic air emissions.

In a new <u>memo</u>, EPA air chief Bill Wehrum wrote that the "once in, always in" policy "is contrary to the plain language" of the Clean Air Act. Wehrum revoked a <u>1995 guidance memo</u> outlining the policy and said EPA would consider new regulations to clarify its interpretation of the law.

Under the now-revoked guidance, any emitter that qualified as a "major" source of hazardous air pollutants would forever be subject to that tougher standard to comply with MACT rules, even if its emissions dropped low enough to be considered an "area" source subject to fewer or no requirements. Wehrum's memo said the law does not specify that such classifications are permanent.

"EPA has now determined that a major source which takes an enforceable limit on its [potential emissions] and takes measures to bring its HAP emissions below the applicable threshold becomes an area source, no matter when the source may choose to take measures to limit its" potential pollution emissions, Wehrum wrote.

Wehrum argued that the policy shift will actually encourage sources that hesitated to install emission reduction projects to move forward. Environmentalists, however, quickly <u>blasted the change</u> on social media.

The Bush administration twice attempted to change the OIAI policy but never succeeded.

WHAT'S NEXT: Wehrum's memo says EPA will "soon publish a Federal Register notice to take comment on adding regulatory text that will reflect EPA's plain language reading of the statute."

To view online click here.

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Brown thumps Trump in final State of the State address Back

By David Siders and Carla Marinucci | 01/25/2018 05:57 PM EDT

SACRAMENTO — In a wide-ranging defense of California — and a rebuke of President Donald Trump and the Republican-held Congress — Gov. Jerry Brown on Thursday rallied this bulwark of the Democratic Party to push forward on climate change, immigration and high-speed rail, signaling another year of conflict between Washington and the nation's most populous state.

Delivering his final State of the State address, Brown cast California as a more enlightened alternative to "the poison in our politics" and to "the abysmal approval ratings given to the U.S. Congress."

He called for the state to complete a massive high-speed rail project reviled by many Republicans in Washington, and to put 5 million zero-emission vehicles on California roads by 2030.

"Despite what is widely believed by some of the most powerful people in Washington, the science of climate change is not in doubt," the Democratic governor told a joint session of the Legislature here. "All nations agree except one, and that is solely because of one man: our current president."

Brown said, "Here in California, we follow a different path."

Brown and the state's heavy bench of Democratic officeholders have feuded with Trump since the Republican president took office last year. But tensions heightened this month, with the Trump administration threatening to undermine the state's marijuana market, proposing oil drilling off the California coast and vowing to dramatically increase immigration enforcement in the state.

On Wednesday, the state attorney general, Xavier Becerra, filed litigation challenging the Trump administration's repeal of an Obama-era hydraulic fracturing regulation, while Trump took aim at San Francisco and other sanctuary cities that he said are the "best friend of gangs and cartels like MS-13."

While relatively cautious in his criticism of Trump, Brown's agenda — combating climate change, health care, defending a state gas tax increase — stands starkly at odds with the White House, and the governor implicitly cut at Trump.

Recalling headlines that derided California as "ungovernable" and "doomed" when Brown inherited a yawning budget deficit as he took office in 2011, Brown said, "Even today, you will find critics who claim the California dream is dead. But I'm used to that."

Now California enjoys a budget surplus, and Brown pointed to the state's approval of a water bond, a budget reserve and a cap-and-trade extension, among other legislative achievements, as evidence "that some American governments actually can get stuff done."

Heralding crowds that participated in Women's March events this month and activists who champion the cause of undocumented young people, Brown said, "In all this, California was in the forefront, showing the way."

In a reflective address — at nearly 30 minutes, unusually long for Brown — the governor acknowledged Trump's approval of "substantial assistance" in disaster aid after California's devastating wildfires and mudslides

But Brown excoriated the Republican majority in Washington for its attempt to undo health care legislation on which California relies for billions of dollars in federal aid.

"Thank God for John McCain, Lisa Murkowski and Susan Collins," he said. "Along with the Democrats, they prevailed and protected health care for tens of millions of Americans."

For Brown, a fourth-term governor who abandoned his own presidential ambitions after running three times for the White House, the speech served as a reminder of the accomplishments of his final terms, but also the uncertainty of his legacy as he prepares to leave office in January 2019.

Brown is almost sure to be replaced by a Democrat keeping with his positions on climate change and immigration. But as Brown prepares to exit public life, California's poverty rate remains the highest in the nation when adjusted for the cost of living, and the state's tax system relies heavily on its top earners, a major source of volatility. Brown's two signature infrastructure initiatives — building high-speed rail and a water conveyance system — are also mired in uncertainty, with multibillion price tags and fierce political opposition to both projects.

Earlier this month, California officials said the estimated cost of an initial leg of the project in California's Central Valley had alone climbed \$2.8 billion, throwing into doubt the state's cost estimate for the overall project of about \$64 billion. The project will almost certainly require additional federal money, which proponents acknowledge is unlikely while Republicans control the House.

On Thursday, Brown said, "I make no bones about it. I like trains, and I like high-speed trains even better."

"Yes, it costs a lot of money," he said. "But it's still cheaper and more convenient than expanding airports, which nobody wants to do, and building new freeways."

Brown was flanked on the rostrum by two of the several Democrats who are bidding to succeed him. Many of those candidates, including the front-runner, Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom, have been more strident than Brown in their rhetoric deriding Trump, suggesting animosity between the state and Washington may only intensify.

After Brown's remarks, Newsom said Brown's speech underscored the challenges ahead for California leaders of the next generation.

"It's a baton to be passed," he said, one that emphasizes "success is not a definition — it's a direction."

Brown, governor before from 1975 to 1983, drew loud applause in the Assembly chambers, and even Republicans praised him for his fiscal moderation. But Republican Assemblywoman Catharine Baker said she was concerned "to see him double down on high-speed rail," while Republican Assembly Leader Brian Dahle said Brown failed to adequately address the rising cost of living in the state.

"Some people are spending 50 percent of their pay on rent," Dahle said. With increasing taxes, Dahle said, "they're raising revenues off the back of people here."

Yet Republicans represent a small minority in the California Legislature and have little influence in state politics. And Brown, with a favorable approval rating and millions of dollars remaining in his campaign war chest, has avoided lame-duck treatment entering his final year. He pledged to "do everything in my power" to defeat an effort to repeal a gas tax increase.

Asked as he left the lectern what his father, the late Gov. Edmund G. "Pat" Brown, would say about his final speech, Brown said, "Persistence."

Then asked if he would run for office again, Brown — who has said before that he will not run for president in 2020 — offered a familiar quip.

"You never know," the 79-year-old said. "Never say never."

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California to sue over federal fracking rule repeal Back

By Alex Guillén | 01/24/2018 12:00 PM EDT

California will sue the Trump administration for repealing the Obama-era fracking rule, California Attorney General Xavier Becerra announced today.

The repeal of the 2015 Bureau of Land Management regulation was formalized late last month.

"They didn't follow the law, they didn't let the law or the facts change their way in their zeal to repeal what was a commonsense measure," Becerra told reporters on a conference call. California's lawsuit will argue Interior violated the Administrative Procedure Act by failing to justify the repeal, and Becerra said the state also will pursue NEPA violations over the environmental impacts of fracking.

"I think there is plenty of reason to doubt that the fracking repeal engaged in by the administration will withstand scrutiny in a court," Becerra added.

The Obama fracking rule was struck down in 2016 by a federal judge in Wyoming who said Interior did not have the authority to regulate the practice at all. That issue was on appeal to the 10th Circuit, but that case is expected to be dismissed as moot and the lower court's ruling vacated now that the rule has been repealed.

Becerra sidestepped questions about how California could win when the underlying rule was itself in legal jeopardy, saying the lawsuit over the repeal "is going to stand on its own."

WHAT'S NEXT: California will file the lawsuit over the fracking rule's repeal.

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South Korea asks for WTO consultation with U.S. over washing machine, solar import curbs Back

By Adam Behsudi | 01/25/2018 10:48 AM EDT

South Korea has filed two separate requests at the WTO for consultations with the United States on recent restrictions on imports of <u>washing machines</u> and <u>solar products</u>, arguing that the actions violate several international trade rules.

The requests made on Wednesday begins a process under the WTO's safeguards agreement. The requests are different from the WTO's dispute settlement process but could still lead to South Korea retaliating against the U.S. actions if the two countries can't settle their differences in 30 days.

President Donald Trump this week <u>approved</u> import restrictions on washing machines and solar products under Section 201 of the Trade Agreement of 1974.

Countries are allowed a certain amount of flexibility to impose safeguards under WTO rules, but South Korea argues that the U.S. action breaches a number of provisions under the safeguards agreement and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

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- NYT: 'Cuban Missile crisis in slow motion' -- COHN TO CORDRAY: Go the easy way or hard way -- CHRISTIE

comeback -- KATIE GLUECK engaged

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POLITICO PLAYBOOK

Today's PLAYBOOK presented by UC Davis

04/17/2017 06:46 AM EDT

By JAKE SHERMAN (<u>sherman@politico.com</u>; <u>@JakeSherman</u>) and ANNA PALMER (<u>anna@politico.com</u>; <u>@apalmerdc</u>) with DANIEL LIPPMAN (<u>daniel@politico.com</u>; <u>@dlippman</u>)

DRIVING THE DAY



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NICE PARKING JOB! -- A Playbooker sends this photo of a particularly bad parking job from the parking lot reserved for members of Congress at DCA. http://bit.ly/2oCMqET Will anyone own up to this one?

QUITE THE QUOTE -- PENCE at the DMZ -- "PANMUNJOM, South Korea (AP) - U.S. Vice President Mike Pence says 'era of strategic patience is over' with North Korea." **Ken Thomas's story from South Korea** http://apne.ws/20hiFIM

-- HEADLINE THAT WAS LOST ON EASTER SUNDAY: "Trump Said to Not Shy Away From Sudden Strike on North Korea," by Bloomberg's Jen Jacobs and Michelle Jamrisko: "In the wake of North Korea's failed medium-range missile test this weekend, President Donald Trump is willing to consider ordering 'kinetic' military action, including a sudden strike, to

counteract North Korea's destabilizing actions in the region, said a person familiar with the White House's thinking.

"But Trump's very strong preference is for China to take the lead on dealing with North Korea, said the person, who asked not to be named because the discussions are private. Trump's strategy isn't exactly a departure from long-standing U.S. policy. He isn't particularly interested in toppling the regime of leader Kim Jong Un and isn't looking to force a reunification of the two Koreas, the person said. He instead wants to push for their long-term cooperation." https://bloom.bg/2nTOiMa

WELL PUT -- Robert Litwak of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in David Sanger and William Broad's Page One'r in the NYT about North Korea: "the Cuban missile crisis in slow motion." http://nyti.ms/2nU7bio

NOTE FROM THE WEST WING -- White House insiders are particularly pleased that they have another week with Congress out of town, hoping they can keep their momentum from last week going for another few days. Remember: When Congress returns next week, Washington will be thrown into full shutdown mode. The government shuts down a week from Friday.

ALSO: National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster will return from Afghanistan, and is expected to brief members of the administration on what he saw there. VP Mike Pence is in South Korea and will visit Japan, Indonesia and Australia, in a trip that looks awfully presidential. (NYT: "How Trump's Travel Compares With Past Presidents" http://nyti.ms/2pHNtmc)

-- THE TIMES OF LONDON: "Trump demands gold???plated welcome: President insists on a carriage journey down The Mall to Buckingham Palace," by Francis Elliott and Fiona Hamilton: "Donald Trump waving from the Queen's royal carriage is not a scenario many would have foreseen a year ago, but it has become a very real prospect, forcing security services to plan an unprecedented lockdown. The White House has made clear it regards the carriage procession down the Mall as an essential element of the itinerary for the visit currently planned for the second week of October, according to officials. Security sources have warned, however, that the procession will require a 'monster' security operation, far greater than for any recent state visit." http://bit.ly/20Oz1vc

-- BUZZ AT 1600 PENNSYLVANIA: CONCERNS ABOUT PULLING OFF THE EASTER EGG ROLL: While there is certainly plenty of heavy world matters to discuss, Trump's White House has another high hurdle: putting on a smooth White House Easter Egg Roll. The annual event should be an easy, fun photo op. But it will be the first time since Trump's inauguration where crowd size and overall organization will be on public display. And the politics of who

gets a ticket is a classic display of Washington political currency. We hear agency officials were doling out handfuls of tickets as recently as late last week.

TRUMP WEIGHS IN ON SPECIAL ELECTIONS -- @realDonaldTrump at 8:49 p.m.: "The recent Kansas election (Congress) was a really big media event, until the Republicans won. Now they play the same game with Georgia-BAD!" *The election is tomorrow*.

-- THE LATEST FROM THE PEACH STATE: "Warring Republicans try to unite against Ossoff in Georgia's Sixth," by the Atlanta Journal Constitution's Greg Bluestein: "Fractious Georgia Republicans tried to unite behind a 'stop Jon Ossoff' movement ahead of Tuesday's special election to represent a suburban Atlanta district, with party leaders urging voters to stream to the polls and prevent an upset victory by the Democrat.

"Republicans face a daunting enthusiasm gap in the 18-candidate race to represent the 6th District, and the leading GOP contenders have spent the final days feuding with each other. Ossoff, one of five Democrats in the race, is leading in the polls - and aiming for an outright victory in Tuesday's vote.

"At a GOP voter drive in the district's western flank of Marietta, about 30 volunteers and officials turned out to make calls and listen to several likely Republican statewide candidates. This is personal,' said Attorney General Chris Carr, who lives in Dunwoody. 'We have great candidates. But whoever you support is better than the other side. They are trying to embarrass us, but let's show them this district is Republican red. ... 'I'll be very blunt: These lines were not drawn to get Hank Johnson's protégé to be my representative. And you didn't hear that,' said [state Sen. Fran] Millar. 'They were not drawn for that purpose, OK? They were not drawn for that purpose.'" http://on-ajc.com/2pHUl2N

CLICKER -- DAILY MAIL -- "A picture perfect moment! Barack and Michelle Obama pose on billionaire David Geffen's superyacht during day out with Oprah, Bruce Springsteen and Tom Hanks in French Polynesia" http://dailym.ai/2poXqbD

KNOWING MIKE CONAWAY -- PAGE ONE OF THE TIMES -- "Unfamiliar Spotlight for Texan Taking Lead on Russia Inquiry," by Emmarie Huetteman in Midland, Texas: "President Trump does not know Mike Conaway. A Republican congressman from a long brush stroke of West Texas, Mr. Conaway recalled meeting with him at the White House with other House Republicans. And he has shaken hands with Mr. Trump, a 'standard, 500-people-on-a-rope-line, shaken-hand kind of thing.' 'He wouldn't know me from third base,' Mr. Conaway said.

"Whether he has exchanged pleasantries with the president may not have mattered before, but it does now. Mr. Conaway is taking over the House Intelligence Committee's investigation into Russian meddling in the presidential election. He is replacing Representative Devin Nunes, the California Republican whose suspiciously cozy relationship with Mr. Trump derailed the inquiry before he was ultimately forced to step aside. ...

"He parlayed a football scholarship into a career in accounting in Midland, Tex., which brought him to Mr. Bush. He became the chief financial officer of Mr. Bush's oil and gas company, which ultimately faltered with the falling oil prices of the mid-1980s. About a decade later, Mr. Bush, by then governor of Texas, appointed Mr. Conaway to a state board overseeing other accountants. In some ways, a hometown-boy aura has followed him throughout his life. Mr. Conaway won his seat in 2004, the beneficiary of efforts by state Republicans who redrew districts with the clear intent of electing him and a handful of others to Congress." http://nyti.ms/20m5kOB

****** A message from UC Davis: At UC Davis, unusual collaborations in veterinary medicine, human health and engineering lead to groundbreaking treatments for beloved pets and other animals, from furry to feathered. Those breakthroughs lead to translatable human medicine. It's a One Health approach that benefits the health of all. Learn more at 21stcentury.ucdavis.edu. ******

READ WSJ'S RICH RUBIN, MR. PRESIDENT -- "Trump's Renewed Focus on Health Bill Vexes GOP Tax Overhaul Strategy: Political shuffle underscores knotty relationship between budgetary priorities": "Mr. Trump signaled last week that one of the reasons he has reprioritized health care is that he was relying on savings from the health bill to bolster the tax plan. If the health plan is signed, 'we get hundreds of millions of dollars in savings that goes into the taxes,' said Mr. Trump said in an interview Wednesday. 'Could we do it without health care? Absolutely but it's a cleaner package if we get health care done.'

"The budget reality isn't that straightforward . Budgetary savings from a health bill don't get plowed into the tax bill, so the lack of a health bill wouldn't necessarily change the tax-bill math. There is also no requirement that the health bill come first. But the two pieces of legislation are interrelated because the GOP health bill would eliminate discrete taxes created as part of the 2010 Affordable Care Act, smoothing the process of passing a broader tax overhaul. ...

"On one hand, the delay on tax policy gives lawmakers more time to reach a deal on taxes, which has proven elusive so far. But the strategy and sequencing also leaves the tax overhaul waiting behind a messy health care bill and a 2018 budget resolution, which is necessary to trigger a reconciliation bill. Republicans on Capitol Hill worry that they may not be able to

adopt a 2018 budget resolution because of intraparty disagreements on spending." http://on.wsj.com/20FBvMb

-- WHAT HILL INSIDERS ARE SAYING: Republicans will be tempted to pass a straight corporate and individual tax cut, and skip overall tax reform. A disappointment, for sure, but an easier victory for lawmakers on the Hill in the leadup to the midterm elections next year. We still bet they try to swing for the fences and go for a big overhaul.

TRUMP'S WORLD -- "Trump learning to love Bush aides," by Tara Palmeri: "Throughout his presidential campaign, Donald Trump repeatedly declared that 'the last thing we need is another Bush,' as he vowed to take on two political dynasties - the Bushes and the Clintons. But as president, Trump has been increasingly dipping into the talent pool from the George W. Bush administration that he regularly vilified during the campaign to now fill critical administration posts. Trump promised to drain the swamp and instead rely on Washington outsiders, but nearly 100 days into his term, the staffing and political realities have set in, and his team has been turning to some of the top old hands of the Bush administration. Just this past week, the White House sent out a press release announcing the nomination of four confirmation-level hires, with three out of the four being former Bush administration staffers." http://politi.co/2nU6bun

GREAT BEHIND-THE-SCENES DETAILS -- 2018 WATCH -- "Can the consumer watchdog Trump loathes win an election in Ohio?," by Lorraine Woellert, Daniel Strauss and Ben White: "Gary Cohn gave Richard Cordray, the head of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, an ultimatum over dinner a few weeks ago: Go the easy way, or go the hard way. Cohn, President Donald Trump's top economic adviser, had heard the rumors that Cordray wanted to run for governor in Ohio. He left dinner that night thinking that they were true, according to people familiar with the meeting. So the White House decided to hold off on firing Cordray. Trump didn't want to cause a sensation that could boost his candidacy and juice his fundraising. ...

"Cordray -- whose five-year term expires next July -- has yet to announce his political intentions and his window for launching a gubernatorial campaign is starting to close. But whether or not Trump ultimately decides to fire him, he may already have enough political support to lead the field to replace Republican Gov. John Kasich in 2018." http://politi.co/2pHKpXl

SCOOP -- "Trump expected to pick Treasury veteran as top bank cop," by Ben White and Victoria Guida: "President Donald Trump is expected to nominate former Treasury undersecretary Randy Quarles as the Federal Reserve's top bank regulator, a person close to the decision said. The selection would send a clear signal that the administration is looking to

take a pragmatic approach to paring back bank regulation, rather than choosing an ideologue who would seek to eviscerate the rules enacted since the financial crisis. Quarles still needs to meet with the president, which will happen in the coming days, but he is likely to get the nod for the post, the most important bank regulatory position in government, barring unexpected developments." http://politi.co/20hwPJR

CHRISTIE 2.0? -- "Christie angling for a comeback," by Ryan Hutchins and Josh Dawsey: Chris Christie "is enjoying significant influence in Trump's world, spearheading a new national anti-addiction effort, talking to the president several times per week, and recently spending much of two days in the Oval Office advising Trump. ... It's unclear exactly what Christie is angling for, besides attempting to repair his public standing. One person familiar with his thinking said the governor plans to 'go make some money' when he leaves office, but he's clearly eager to keep other options open, possibly in Trump's administration. 'I think he feels very good. I think he feels very good at serving out two full terms,' said Mike DuHaime, Christie's longtime political strategist. 'He's always enjoyed being out there, being active.'" http://politi.co/2ohH6FV

PART OF THE TEAM -- "Hillary Clinton's Campaign Turns Over Email List To DNC," by HuffPost's Sam Levine and Sam Stein: "The [DNC] announced on Sunday that Hillary Clinton's campaign had turned over its email list, giving the party a major boost as it rebuilds under a new chair and prepares for the midterm elections next year and the 2020 presidential race. The list, provided as an in-kind contribution from the Hillary for America campaign organization, includes more than 10 million new names that the DNC did not have on its voter files, according to both Clinton and DNC aides. The contribution was valued as \$3.5 million." http://huff.to/20OEUJo

THE REINFORCEMENTS -- "Pro-Trump group launches a \$3 million ad campaign to prop up House allies," by WaPo's Bob Costa: "America First Policies, a pro-Trump nonprofit outfit ... is starting a \$3 million advertising campaign to bolster a dozen House Republicans who publicly backed the health-care proposal that has stalled on Capitol Hill. ... The House Republicans receiving air support are: Gary Palmer (Ala.), Jeff Duncan (S.C.), David Schweikert (Ariz.), Keith Rothfus (Pa.), Rob Wittman (Va.), Tom Graves (Ga.), Scott R. Tipton (Colo.), Thomas Garrett (Va.), David Joyce (Ohio), Michael R. Turner (Ohio), Martha McSally (Ariz.) and Brian Mast (Fla.)." http://wapo.st/20D2KVV ... One of the ads http://bit.ly/20m9ZQt

TELL US WHAT YOU REALLY THINK! "IMF warnings of US protectionism 'rubbish', says [Wilbur] Ross," by FT's Shawn Donnan and Demetri Sevastopulo: "The billionaire investor ... said veiled criticism by Ms Lagarde and other defenders of multilateralism about rising protectionism were clearly aimed at the new administration. 'It is! It is! And the response is

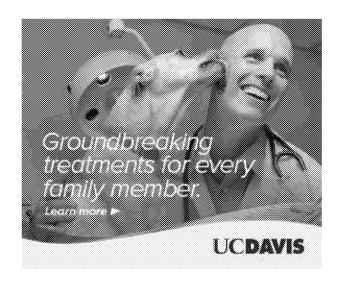
very simple: we are the least protectionist of the major areas. We are far less protectionist than Europe. We are far less protectionist than Japan. We are far less protectionist than China,' he told the Financial Times in an interview. ... '[T]hey talk free trade. But in fact what they practise is protectionism. And every time we do anything to defend ourselves, even against the puny obligations that they have, they call that protectionism. It's rubbish.'" http://on.ft.com/2p9zsSb

FOR YOUR RADAR -- "Opposition to challenge votes on expanding Erdogan's powers," by AP's Susan Frazer in Ankara: "Turkey's main opposition party on Monday prepared to contest the results of a landmark referendum that gave a narrow victory to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's long-time plans to greatly expand the powers of his office. Turkey's electoral board confirmed the 'yes' victory in Sunday's referendum and said the final results would be declared in 11-12 days. The state-run Anadolu Agency said the 'yes' vote stood at 51.41 percent, while the 'no' vote was 48.59 percent. The margin fell short of the sweeping victory Erdogan had sought in the referendum. Nevertheless, it could cement his hold on power in Turkey and is expected to have a huge effect on the country's long-term political future and its international relations." http://apne.ws/2nU3itE

--"Erdogan Claims Vast Powers in Turkey After Narrow Victory in Referendum," by NYT's Patrick Kingsley: "The constitutional change will allow the winner of the 2019 presidential election to assume full control of the government, ending the current parliamentary political system. The ramifications, however, are immediate. The 'yes' vote in the referendum is a validation of the current leadership style of Mr. Erdogan, who has been acting as a de facto head of government since his election in 2014 despite having no constitutional right to wield such power. The office of Turkey's president was meant to be an impartial role without full executive authority." http://nyti.ms/20hzEuu

THE JUICE ...

- -- DNC CHAIR TOM PEREZ and Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) are starting their six-day, eight-state tour today across the country as part of the "Come Together and Fight Back" tour. The tour is focused on "needs of working families and building a Democratic Party which is strong and active in all 50 states, and a party which focuses on grassroots activism," according to an operative involved in the effort. The tour includes stops to Portland, Maine; Louisville, Kentucky; Miami; Dallas; Omaha, Nebraska; Salt Lake City, Utah; Mesa, Arizona; and Las Vegas.
- -- SEN. ELIZABETH WARREN (D-Mass.) will be on the "Today" show tomorrow morning talking news of the day and about her new book.



PLAYBOOK READS







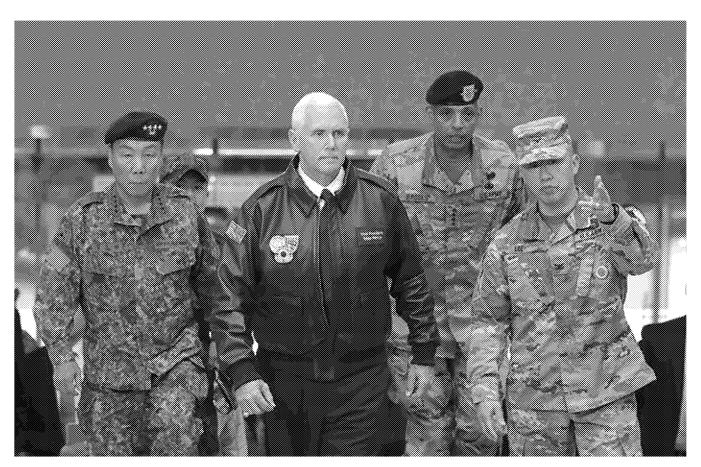


PHOTO DU JOUR: Vice President Mike Pence arrives with military commanders at the border village of Panmunjom in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), which has separated the two Koreas since the Korean War on April 17. | Lee Jin-man/AP Photo

REAL WORLD -- "In Travis County custody case, jury will search for real Alex Jones,"

by the Austin American-Statesman's Jonathan Tilove: "At a recent pretrial hearing, attorney Randall Wilhite told state District Judge Orlinda Naranjo that using his client Alex Jones' onair Infowars persona to evaluate Alex Jones as a father would be like judging Jack Nicholson in a custody dispute based on his performance as the Joker in 'Batman.' 'He's playing a character,' Wilhite said of Jones. 'He is a performance artist.' But in emotional testimony at the hearing, Kelly Jones, who is seeking to gain sole or joint custody of her three children with Alex Jones, portrayed the volcanic public figure as the real Alex Jones. 'He's not a stable person,' she said of the man with whom her 14-year-old son and 9- and 12-year-old daughters have lived since her 2015 divorce. ... 'He broadcasts from home. The children are there, watching him broadcast.'" http://atxne.ws/2pqiyah

WASHINGTON, INC. -- "Inside the Hotel Industry's Plan to Combat Airbnb," by NYT's Katie Benner: "The main prongs of the association's plan to constrain Airbnb include lobbying politicians and state attorneys general to reduce the number of Airbnb hosts, funding studies to show Airbnb is filled with people who are quietly running hotels out of residential buildings and highlighting how Airbnb hosts do not collect hotel taxes and are not subject to the same safety and security regulations that hotel operators must follow. The group said it would focus its efforts in key markets, including Los Angeles, San Francisco, Boston, Washington and Miami. The efforts were spearheaded last year by Katherine Lugar, chief executive of the American Hotel and Lodging Association. The trade group began to form alliances with politicians, affordable housing groups and neighborhood associations. The industry also forged relationships with hotel labor unions - which it typically faces off against on many issues - about dealing with Airbnb." http://nyti.ms/2ppcZQu

MEDIAWATCH -- "How a Tiny Florida Newspaper Became a Must-Read in the Trump Era," by Washingtonian's Ben Freed: The Palm Beach Daily News "or 'Shiny Sheet,' as its known to locals for the higher-than-usual-quality paper it prints on -- typically covers events at Palm Beach's charity galas, local real-estate transactions, and goings-on in town government. It's only got about 5,000 subscribers, but it's become required reading for a Washington that is still struggling to make sense of the 45th President. ... The Shiny Sheet doesn't score the big national-security or palace-intrigue scoops that deep-pocketed news organizations like the Washington Post and New York Times do, but its role as a chronicler of South Florida's swells has allowed it to break its share of presidential news." http://bit.ly/2pt6yJy

--"The Society Columnist [Shannon Donnelly] With a Front-Row Seat at Mar-a-Lago," by NYT's Katie Rogers: http://nyti.ms/2pIouw6

FUTURE OF NEWS -- "Instant recall: Facebook's Instant Articles promised to transform journalism -- but now big publishers are fleeing," by The Verge's Casey Newton: "[A]fter

two years of experimenting with Instant Articles, many outlets appear to have had enough. The New York Times, which had been a launch partner for Instant Articles, abandoned the platform last fall. Vice News, Forbes, the Los Angeles Times, the Chicago Tribune, and Hearst publications are among the large publishers who have joined it in leaving. Others are publishing a small handful of articles to the platform while pushing the majority of their readers to their own websites, including CNN, the New York Daily News, and the Wall Street Journal." http://bit.ly/2oCwEtG

****** A message from UC Davis: Ranked first in the world for veterinary medicine, UC Davis believes collaborating across disciplines in animal, human and environmental health is the best way to advance the health of all creatures great and small. Using this "One Health" approach to problem solving, our research - much of which is federally funded - is resulting in cost-saving, translatable treatments for cancer, breakthroughs in stem cell therapy, increased awareness and management of emerging zoonotic diseases, better protection for endangered species, and comprehensive responses to environmental crises like oil spills and floods. Learn more about UC Davis health innovation at 21stcentury.ucdavis.edu. ******

AGENCY WATCH -- "EPA emerges as major target after Trump solicits policy advice from industry," by WaPo's Juliet Eilperin: "Just days after taking office, President Trump invited American manufacturers to recommend ways the government could cut regulations and make it easier for companies to get their projects approved. Industry leaders responded with scores of suggestions that paint the clearest picture yet of the dramatic steps that Trump officials are likely to take in overhauling federal policies, especially those designed to advance environmental protection and safeguard worker rights. Those clues are embedded in the 168 comments submitted to the government after Trump signed a presidential memorandum Jan. 24 instructing the Commerce Department to figure out how to ease permitting and trim regulations with the aim of boosting domestic manufacturing. The [EPA] has emerged as the primary target in these comments, accounting for nearly half, with the Labor Department in second place as the subject of more than one-fifth, according to a Commerce Department analysis." http://wapo.st/2psMZAQ

VALLEY TALK -- "Selling Mark Zuckerberg: The Facebook CEO's likability blitz isn't a presidential campaign, it's a focus group for his 1.8 billion constituents -- and part of a high stakes campaign to win your likes," by BuzzFeed's Nitasha Tiku: "Zuckerberg, now a 32-year-old dad with one daughter and another on the way, has evolved considerably in the intervening decade. He hired speechwriters. He spruced up his uniform from Valley schlub to monochrome minimalism. He took on a series of annual self-improvement challenges that made him into a 'lifestyle guru' for some male tech workers, according to the New York Times Style section. ... Now, Zuckerberg is even leading the charge for Silicon Valley tech CEOs who, post-election,

have committed to leaving their bubble and interacting with the American public." http://bzfd.it/2pHIxov

THE GLOBAL POLITICO PODCAST: Michael Anton wrote inflammatory essays backing Trump during last year's campaign. Now he's in charge of explaining Trump's keep-emguessing foreign policy at Trump's NSC. In an exclusive interview with Susan Glasser's Global POLITICO podcast, Anton talks Syria, North Korea, Steve Bannon -- and the virtues of Trump's unpredictability. Not to mention who's best dressed in the White House, and why his intellectual hero Machiavelli would approve of the president. http://politi.co/2psW1ho ... Transcript http://politi.co/2p9lobh ... Subscribe http://apple.co/2kJ9q1U

PLAYBOOKERS







SPOTTED -- HUD Secretary Ben Carson sitting in a middle seat in coach from Palm Beach to DCA Sunday evening ... Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin entering Brooks Brothers on Connecticut and Rhode Island avenues on Saturday afternoon ... Former Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez at Cafe Milano Easter brunch.

ENGAGED - KATIE GLUECK, senior political correspondent at McClatchy and a Politico alum, to **MAOR COHEN**, senior dedicated analyst at the Advisory Board who is attending Columbia Business School this fall -- she posts on Instagram: "Best news I could ever break: we're getting married!! So, so overjoyed and grateful to be doing life with my very favorite person #katiesamormaor #maorgetsglucky" -- **pic** http://bit.ly/2pt6qtl

--Katie emails us the backstory: "We were spending Passover in Boston with Maor's family, and Maor told me he had bought our return tickets to Washington. But at the last minute, he told me those tickets were 'fake news,' and that we weren't in fact returning to DC. It wasn't until we got to the airport gate that I learned we were actually going to Puerto Rico! We went for a walk on the beach at sunset that evening, and he popped the question. We met at a party hosted by a mutual friend on the Saturday after the 2012 election."

WEEKEND WEDDING -- #shepickedflowers: Darien B. Flowers, a policy advisor at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck and former legislative aide to Sen. Bill Cassidy, M.D. (R-LA) married Kirsten Ferreira, an associate at the McChrystal Group in Miami, Florida, the bride's hometown. Sean Conner, Uber lobbyist and former press secretary to Sen. Tim Scott (R-S.C.), officiated the ceremony. *Pics* http://bit.ly/20FdXqQ ... http://bit.ly/20hrXEq

SPOTTED among the nearly 200 guests: Dan Henke of Monument Policy Group and a Pat Roberts alum, Lonald Wishom of Sen. Orrin Hatch's office, Emma Kenyon of Sen. Claire McCaskill's office, Sophie White, aviation lobbyist formerly with Sen. McCaskill, Zephranie Buetow, deputy legislative director with Sen. Gary Peters (D-Mich.), USAID's Anna McCracken, Samuel Negatu, legislative counsel for Rep. Matt Cartwright (D-Pa.) and Kay Hagan alum Johnnie Williams.

TRANSITIONS - OBAMA ALUMNI -- Kevin Griffis has been named the vice president for communications at Planned Parenthood Federation of America. He previously served as the assistant secretary for public affairs at HHS under President Obama. http://politi.co/2p9iKGx

-- As Jill Hazelbaker moves into her new role leading policy and communications globally for Uber, **Justin Kintz** is taking over policy and communications in the Americas. He will continue to work out of Uber's Dupont Circle office. ... **TJ Helmstetter**, formerly the DNC's associate communications director, is now communications director at Americans for Tax Fairness, preparing for the fight against Trump's forthcoming tax plan.

BIRTHWEEK (was yesterday): Sefy Hendler, columnist for Ha'aretz and art history department chair at Tel Aviv University (hat tip: Ben Chang)

BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: Jim Acosta, CNN's senior White House correspondent, celebrating with family. "Every free moment I have with my kids is precious." Read his Playbook Plus Q&A: http://politi.co/2ohBuvn

BIRTHDAYS: Ieva Augstums, deputy VP for comms. and public affairs at PhRMA, a Purple Strategies and AP alum ... NYT White House reporter Julie Hirschfeld Davis ... Angelo Roefaro of Sen. Schumer's office and a Syracuse alum, is 33 ... Ben Butterfield ... Erika Soto Lamb, chief comms. officer at Everytown for Gun Safety ... Annie Hughes ... Rep. George Holding (R-N.C.) is 49 ... Tom Giovanetti, president of the Institute for Policy Innovation ... Alex Kellner, senior director at Bully Pulpit Interactive, a McAuliffe alum, and the best grillmaster in politics (h/t Rob Flaherty) ... Jackie Whisman of the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation ... Dean Lieberman - Dean's last day at State was Friday, and he's going to backpack around Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos, disconnect from the world and lounge at a beach bungalow for a few weeks (h/t Ben Chang) ... Emily Cooper, VP of global partnerships at Nat Geo ... Chris Durlak, managing director at Purple Strategies ... David Lindsey, executive editor of news and features at NatGeo and a Reuters, USA Today and WashPost alum (and Mike Allen's editor, when he was the Arlington/Alexandria reporter) ... political consultant Will Leaverton ... Greg Lemon, comms director for Rep. Rob Wittman ... Alex Schaffer of Mothership Strategies (h/t

Nicole Berns) ... Jennifer Laptook LaTourette of Van Scoyoc Associates ... CBO's Lara Robillard (h/ts Marda Robillard) ...

... Matt Kravitz, Center for Responsible Lending comms manager and Rep. Garamendi alum, celebrating with Passover macaroons that his wife Tamar Ariel baked him ... NYU political scientist and Monkey Cage blog co-author Joshua Tucker ... Shelly Banjo, retail, food and consumer columnist at Bloomberg Gadfly ... Politico alum Adekunle Ogunfolu ... Ellen Dargie, senior director of gov't affairs and counsel at the Internet Association and an Issa alum ... Atul Shembekar ... Valentina Cano ... Susan Effler, marketing manager for Uber in Boston ... Melanie Griffin, not the actress but the writer and pastor (h/t Dan) ... John Spencer (Jack) Rodgers ... Matt Aks, MBA student at Harvard and an NSC and CEA alum ... Michael Myers, managing director at the Rockefeller Foundation ... Ed Gilroy, director of workforce policy at the House Education and Workforce Cmte. ... Sean Dalton, special assistant at the NTSB ... Trait Thompson, avid Aggies follower ... John Collins ... Rachel Pryor ... Clay Hanna, who shares his birthday with his daughter Ruby (h/t Autumn) ... Chris Gilbert ... Sandra Fluke is 36 ... Brian Temple Smith is 38 ... John Cahill ... Micah Kleit ... Benjamin Runkle is 45 ... Gabrielle Porter ... Robert Bateman is 5-0 ... legal affairs journalist Ken Jost ... Florida attorney Jessica Ehrlich ... Robin Canter ... Monica Fischer (h/ts Teresa Vilmain) ... Eric Sayers, special assistant to the commander of U.S. Pacific Command ... Victoria Beckham is 43 ... Rooney Mara -- cousin of Rep. Tom Rooney -- is 32 (h/ts AP)

****** A message from UC Davis: Ranked first in the world for veterinary medicine, UC Davis believes collaborating across disciplines in animal, human and environmental health is the best way to advance the health of all creatures great and small. Using this "One Health" approach to problem solving, our research - much of which is federally funded - is resulting in cost-saving, translatable treatments for cancer, breakthroughs in stem cell therapy, increased awareness and management of emerging zoonotic diseases, better protection for endangered species, and comprehensive responses to environmental crises like oil spills and floods. Learn more about UC Davis health innovation at <a href="https://linearchy.com/linearchy.c

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Message

From: POLITICO Huddle [huddledigest@politico.com]

Sent: 4/17/2017 11:56:40 AM

To: Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]

Subject: POLITICO Huddle, presented by Business Roundtable: FINAL PUSH IN THE PEACH STATE -- McConnell gives Warren

the cold shoulder - SHERROD BROWN: WALKING TRUMP'S TIGHTROPE - Funding deal likely

04/17/2017 07:52 AM EDT

By Heather Caygle (<u>hcaygle@politico.com</u> or <u>@heatherscope</u>)

THE FINAL PUSH IN THE PEACH STATE - Welcome back Huddle readers. We're rounding out Easter recess so things are quiet on Capitol Hill. The big story this week: What happens in Georgia's 6th District, where Democrats are hoping for an outright upset in Tuesday's election for the long-time GOP seat. Meanwhile, Republicans are praying they get enough votes to deny Democratic frontrunner Jon Ossoff a majority and force him into a June runoff.

"Fractious Georgia Republicans tried to unite behind a 'stop Jon Ossoff' movement ahead of Tuesday's special election ... [But] Republicans face a daunting enthusiasm gap in the 18-candidate race to represent the 6th District, and the leading GOP contenders have spent the final days feuding with each other." Greg Bluestein reports for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution: http://on-ajc.com/2oOExOI

The district has been blanketed with \$14 million worth of ads and there's been a massive get-out-the-vote effort by candidates in the crowded race, Elena Schneider and Steve Shepard report. "The overlapping and competing efforts are hitting some voters over and over again - sometimes simultaneously."

It's the GOTV "equivalent of London after the Blitz" said Dan McLagan, consultant for candidate Dan Moody, a former state senator. More for Pros: http://politico.pro/20OUVyv

From POLITICO Magazine: "Demographic changes in the Atlanta suburbs are the very thing that makes a Democratic win in this historically Republican district even conceivable, but at times Ossoff had seemed unsure how to seize the opportunity." Rebecca Burns: http://politi.co/2oOD8rp

Trump tweets: "The recent Kansas election (Congress) was a really big media event, until the Republicans won. Now they play the same game with Georgia-BAD!" President Donald Trump tweeted Sunday night.

Sen. Bernie Sanders criticized Democrats for not spending enough in the Kansas special election last week, where Democrat James Thompson lost by six points in a district Trump easily won in November. "It is true that the Democratic Party should have put more resources into that election," Sanders said on CNN Sunday.

Sanders and DNC Chairman Tom Perez kick off a multi-state tour this week, focusing on Republican-leaning areas. Kevin Robillard: http://politi.co/2oOy06u

WELL, WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED HERE? Republicans are finding few friends back home during recess, instead being greeted by throngs of furious liberal constituents. POLITICO sent reporters to nearly a dozen town halls in Colorado, Florida, Ohio, Oregon, New Jersey, New York and Texas. Four key takeaways:

-GOP opponents of the Obamacare repeal bill are more dug in than ever: "Across all factions of the divided Republican Conference, lawmakers found one common way to generate applause from a hostile crowd: criticize the AHCA"

- -House GOP infighting is noticed beyond the Beltway: Voters in districts far beyond the confines of Washington are aware of the House Freedom Caucus and the moderate Tuesday Group, pinging their representatives with questions about potential membership.
- **-Republicans are better at handling hostile crowds:** This time around, lawmakers "phoned in local police, imposed new security measures and tightened attendance availability, and it worked, to an extent."
- **-Taking on Trump is a winner:** "If Republicans were ever in need of a lifeline, challenging the president worked wonders in just about every town hall."

Kyle and Rachael report, with contributions from Victoria Colliver, Daniel Ducassi, Sarah Karlin-Smith, Renuka Rayasam, Elana Schor and Josefa Velasquez: http://politi.co/2oOHE9i

WALKING THE TRUMP TIGHTROPE - Sen. Sherrod Brown is known as a liberal stalwart. But as Ohio's only statewide-elected Democrat, he also knows he'll have to win over some Trump voters to hang onto his Senate seat next year.

"That doesn't mean Brown is turning into a Trump cheerleader," Elana reports from Toledo. But Brown is "building relationships with a Trump administration that most fellow Democrats have turned on, and with the kind of steps a restive liberal base might view as treachery by another member of their party." More: http://politi.co/2oOLcIs

WELCOME TO MONDAY, APRIL 17, Y'ALL. Thanks for reading POLITICO's Huddle, the play-by-play guide to all things Capitol Hill. Your Huddle host is back from a whirlwind weekend down in the Big Easy and ready to kick off the last week of recess.

FUNDING BILL FUN - "Bipartisan negotiators in the House and Senate are narrowing in on a final agreement that would continue to pour government dollars into Planned Parenthood and the Affordable Care Act -- two entities despised by conservatives -- while not providing much, if any, money for Trump's much-touted wall on the border with Mexico." The latest on the spending bill negotiations, from CNN's Ted Barrett and Manu Raju: http://cnn.it/2oOCkmo

CONGRESSIONAL COLD SHOULDER - Sen. Elizabeth Warren has been getting the cold shoulder from Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell since February, when he infamously silenced her on the chamber's floor during Jeff Sessions' attorney general confirmation. "I've spoken to him, but he has not spoken to me," Warren told the Boston Globe. "I say hello to Mitch every chance I get, and he turns his head." Victoria McGrane: http://bit.ly/2ohrn90

Warren wouldn't outright label what happened with McConnell as sexist, but did say this on CBS Sunday Morning: "All I can say is, the next day, four men stood up and read exactly the same letter, and they all got to finish," she said. The Huffington Post's Marina Fang: http://huff.to/2ohRahU

DHS CHIEF TO CONGRESS: Immigration is your problem to fix - Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly defended the administration's effort to beef up it's immigration enforcement efforts by hiring thousands of new federal agents, saying if Congress doesn't like what is going on, they can change it. "I would argue, Chuck, that we have to straighten this out," Kelly told NBC's Chuck Todd on Meet the Press about the current immigration system.

"And I place that squarely on the United States Congress. It's a hugely complex series of laws, and I engage the Hill quite a bit and get an earful about what I should do and what I shouldn't do. But it all comes down to the law, doesn't it?" Kevin: http://politi.co/2oOvNIa

PROFILES DU JOUR: Philadelphia Rep. Bob Brady - Holly Otterbein profiles the Philly lawmaker and long-time head of the city's Democratic Party: "In a single day, [Brady] uses the word 'friend' 41 times, describing U.S. presidents, governors, journalists, Mummers, block captains, ward leaders and average Joes. ...One person he decidedly does not call friend is Senator Bernie Sanders, whom he writes off as 'not a nice man,' 'rigid,' and promising 'things that he can no way in hell deliver.'" Much more: http://bit.ly/2ohIUhY

** A message from Business Roundtable: Create, Grow, Sustain: Delivering Shared Success - Explore how companies are promoting sustainable practices in their U.S. and global operations in "Create, Grow, Sustain: Delivering Shared Success." Celebrating its 10th anniversary, the report highlights how America's largest companies make sustainable business investment a priority in supporting economic growth and job creation. https://goo.gl/b2fGbX **

Texas Rep. Mike Conaway, and the accidental spotlight he finds himself in after being asked to take over the House Intel investigation on Russia: "Mr. Conaway has never been under the glare of national scrutiny. ...a former high school football star in an area where there are few stronger credentials, is more accustomed to playing the role of hero." Conaway was part of the 1965 championship-winning team at the high school that would eventually inspire "Friday Night Lights."

Quote du jour: "He played at Odessa Permian," said Brandon Rottinghaus, a political science professor at the University of Houston. "It's like being Jesus in Nazareth." Emmarie Huetteman for the New York Times: http://nyti.ms/2oOP3Fz

WILL SHE RUN? All signs point 83-year-old Sen. Dianne Feinstein running for reelection next year, the San Francisco Chronicle reports: "On Thursday, Feinstein gathered 25 of her longtime supporters at the Fairmont Hotel for a re-election fundraiser. ...[And] in what is looking more and more like a campaign kickoff, Feinstein will host a town hall meeting before an expected 1,000 constituents Monday." More: http://bit.ly/2oOOdR

DEFENSE IS SOMETIMES THE BEST OFFENSE - American Action Network is putting down \$5 million to defend Republican lawmakers who back the Obamacare repeal effort, Kevin Robillard reports. The effort by the group aligned with House GOP leadership is meant to counteract attacks from conservative groups like Club for Growth, who have gone after moderates for supporting the failed bill. More for Pros: http://politico.pro/2ohqWfA

THE GLOBAL POLITICO PODCAST: MACHIAVELLI IN THE TRUMP WHITE HOUSE: Michael Anton wrote inflammatory essays backing Trump during last year's campaign. Now he's in charge of explaining Trump's keep-em-guessing foreign policy at Trump's NSC.

In an exclusive interview with Susan Glasser's Global POLITICO podcast, Anton talks Syria, North Korea, Steve Bannon - and the virtues of Trump's unpredictability. Not to mention who's best dressed in the White House, and why his intellectual hero Machiavelli would approve of the president. <u>iTunes | Soundcloud | Stitcher</u>

TODAY IN CONGRESS - The House meets in a pro forma session at 11 a.m. The Senate meets in a pro forma session at 4:30 p.m.

OFF THE HILL - Senate EPW ranking member Tom Carper and Sen. Ben Cardin hold a press conference on the importance of preserving federal funding to clean up the Chesapeake Bay. The press avail starts at 10 a.m. at Hemingway's Restaurant in Stevensville, Md.

FRIDAY'S TRIVIA WINNER - Dawson Hobbs was the first to guess that Gerald Ford and Nelson Rockefeller were the two vice presidents who took office following a majority vote in Congress.

TODAY'S TRIVIA - Austin with today's question: Two days before Christmas one year, a future U.S. president was forced to pawn off one of his possessions to afford presents for his family. Name the president, the possession and the amount of money he got for it.

The first person to correctly answer gets a shout out in tomorrow's Huddle. And don't forget, send suggestions for trivia questions my way: hcaygle@politico.com

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** A message from Business Roundtable: Create, Grow, Sustain: Delivering Shared Success - For the past ten years, business leaders have been coming together to speak on the importance of the environment and our responsibility to each other in Business Roundtable's sustainability reports. In that time, we've made great strides in our commitment the environment, the communities in which we do business and our people. Explore how companies are promoting sustainable practices in their U.S. and global operations in "Create, Grow, Sustain: Delivering Shared Success:" https://goo.gl/3M6vND **

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87 MELANIE ZANONA

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Sent: 6/20/2019 12:15:52 PM

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Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]

Subject:BUDGET TALKS ON CAPITOL
HILL HIT AN IMPASSE -- Black
lawmakers rush to Biden's
defense amid
'segregationist' uproar -REPUBLICANS WORRY THE
GOP CAMPAIGN ARM IS
STUMBLING -- Dems close to
bipartisan deal on border aid

with help from Sarah Ferris and Andrew Desiderio

NO DEAL -- Congressional negotiators failed to reach a two-year budget deal with the White House to avoid painful spending cuts and prevent fiscal calamity - and President Donald Trump wasn't even in the room this time. During a private huddle in Speaker Nancy Pelosi's office on Wednesday, top White House officials pitched Democrats on a proposal to keep spending levels in place and extend the government's borrowing authority for one year. "The president has every intention of keeping the government open," said Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin.

But Democrats balked, saying that a one-year funding patch - which would put the new spending deadline right before the 2020 election - is a non-starter for them. And they also complained that Republicans were reluctant to do anything to get out ahead of Trump. "A one-year CR is bad policy, it's bad politics and it's a fallback. We should be negotiating a bill," Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) told reporters. "We want to do better."

Now what? Mnuchin said there is still plenty of time to overcome the budget impasse by a Sept. 30 government funding deadline. But Burgess and Heather have a reality check: "time is much shorter in the halls of Congress where decades ago each chamber routinely passed 12 appropriations bills to fund the government each year," they write.

 "Lawmakers are scheduled to be in session just five more weeks before a five-week recess starting in August, and spending bills can take days to process on the Senate floor." Much more: https://politi.co/2WOTVIc.

Related read: "House Moves Forward With Spending Bills as Congress Grapples With Looming Fiscal Deadlines," by the NYT's Julie Hirschfeld Davis and Emily Cochrane: https://nyti.ms/2Kq9ynD.

A message from Freight Rail Works:

Did you know working for a freight railroad is safer than working at your neighborhood grocery store? It's true! Thanks to decades of investment and innovation, the nation's most powerful network is also one of its safest. <u>Learn how.</u>

BLACK LAWMAKERS GOT BIDEN'S BACK -- Joe Biden is in hot water for sounding nostalgic for a more civil Washington, when he says he was even able to work with Southern segregationists decades ago. The backlash from progressives and fellow 2020 hopefuls was swift and fierce for the frontrunner, who has maintained a hefty lead in the polls. But not everyone has jumped on the bashing Biden bandwagon.

Nearly a dozen members of the Congressional Black Caucus, a key bloc in Congress where Biden has long held strong ties, rushed to the former VP's defense. "I worked with Strom Thurmond all my life," House Majority Whip James Clyburn (D-S.C.), the highest-ranking African American in Congress, said of the infamous segregationist senator. "You don't have to agree with people to work with them." The uproar comes days before Clyburn is preparing to host his annual fish fry event in South Carolina this weekend, a must-stop on the campaign trail where nearly all of Democratic presidential candidates, including Biden, are set to attend. Don't miss the dispatch from Laura Barròn-lòpez and Heather: https://politi.co/31JL6D5.

Related: "Biden comments trigger renewed scrutiny of his record on race," via Marc Caputo: https://politi.co/2L2BGwv. Clyburn walks back comment that House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer and Speaker Nancy Pelosi don't prioritize diversity hiring within their congressional offices: https://on.wsj.com/2Fl1z7e

THIS IS FINE -- Six months into the new election cycle, the House GOP's campaign arm is coming under fire from Republicans who are growing increasingly worried about the party's efforts to win back the chamber. NRCC Chairman Tom Emmer sought to defend his committee - and do some damage control - during a private caucus meeting Wednesday, saying his communications team has a "mandate to be ruthless" and arguing that suggestions of turmoil were false. "I'm not going to let anyone in this town with their little blogging fingers divide us," Emmer told members.

What's causing concern inside the conference: Republicans still don't have an answer to Democrats' online fundraising behemoth ActBlue. GOP leaders are bickering behind closed doors over fundraising and party dues. The head of recruitment, one of just 13 female lawmakers in the House GOP, has decided to retire. And the NRCC's aggressive messaging style blew up a delicate negotiation over congressional pay raise. More on all the internal drama from your Huddle host and Laura: https://politi.co/2ZDeo5R.

Related: "GOP hopes dim on reclaiming House," from The Hill's Scott Wong and Juliegrace Brufke: http://bit.ly/2XVklt7.

IT'S ALMOST FRIDAY! Welcome to Huddle, the play-by-play guide to all things Capitol Hill, on this Thursday, June 20, where your host is giving a shout out to a <u>Capitol Hill pupper</u> named "Mary Todd Lincoln" who was just dubbed Southern Living Magazine's Pet of the Month.

POLITICO's The Agenda: The New Moon Race issue, presented by Leidos, has landed. America is heading back to the moon, but so is everyone else. This special report brings together POLITICO's

growing space expertise with pivotal industry players, <u>including NASA</u> <u>chief Jim Bridenstine</u>, to explore the stakes of the new moon race.

Read the full issue now.

WEDNESDAY'S MOST CLICKED: Ya'll went crazy for Bresnahan's report on the fight that broke out over the flight arrangements for Thad Cochran's funeral.

HICKS DOES THE HILL -- Longtime Trump confidente Hope Hicks testified for nearly eight hours behind closed doors on Wednesday — but lawmakers didn't seem to learn much of anything from her testimony. The White House repeatedly blocked Hicks from telling the House Judiciary Committee about anything related to her tenure as White House communications director, frustrating Democrats who called the sit-down a "farce" and thought Hicks' behavior was "obstruction of justice in action."

The committee's obstruction of justice investigation is centered on Trump's time in the Oval Office, so it's unclear whether Hicks' testimony helped advance that probe. But we'll find out soon; a transcript of her interview is set to be made public in the coming days. Kyle and Andrew have more: https://politi.co/2RrDssu. (Also on the oversight menu: Felix Sater, who served as the chief negotiator for the Trump Tower Moscow project, will testify on Capitol Hill later this week. The deets from Andrew and Natasha Bertrand: https://politi.co/31JGbC1.)

Related: "Pelosi rules out censuring Trump," by Heather and Andrew: https://politi.co/2L908MG; and "Moderate Dems push election security to pivot from impeachment debate," from Sarah: https://politi.co/2XqNC1K.

NEW THIS MORNING ... Another swing district Democrat (and another Pelosi ally) backs impeachment: "Illinois Democrats Reps. Sean Casten, Jan Schakowsky call for Trump impeachment inquiry," by Lynn Sweet of the Chicago Sun-Times: http://bit.ly/2XmyOkN.

BORDER BATTLE -- The House is on the brink of finalizing a bipartisan deal to deliver billions in humanitarian aid to the southern border, with plans to approve the package as early as next week, report Sarah and Heather. The breakthrough came the same day that the Senate Appropriations Committee <u>approved</u> a \$4.6 billion spending bill to address an influx of migrants at the border.

Democratic leaders have struggled to secure a deal amid pushback from progressives and members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. But the compromise does not include some of the most contentious provisions on liberals' wish list, such as permanently banning ICE from using information about unaccompanied children to deport their U.S. sponsors. Much more: https://politi.co/2Rrjf5P.

Related: "Kushner tries to strike bipartisan asylum deal," by Burgess, Anita Kumar and Marianne: https://politi.co/2It75Xn; and "Graham, Durbin seek way forward on immigration compromise," by CNN's Lauren Fox: https://cnn.it/2NebSk3.

SENATOR SESSIONS? -- Former Attorney General Jeff Sessions is not ruling out running for his old Alabama Senate seat, according to Sen. Richard Shelby (R-Ala.). "Sessions, I don't think, has ruled it out," Shelby told reporters. "I've talked to him about it. I think if he ran, he would be a formidable candidate. Formidable. I've not encouraged him to run, but he's a friend, and if he ran, I think he'd probably clear the field."

After leaving the Justice Department, Sessions - who has been in the Senate for 20 years - discussed the idea of running again with his close advisers, reports The Washington Post. But it's still unclear whether Sessions is willing to jump into the primary race for a chance to take on Sen. Doug Jones (D-Ala.) in the general election. More from John Wagner, Devlin Barrett and Erica Werner: https://wapo.st/2L27jqc.



THINKING FACE EMOJI ... "Senators get classified briefing on UFO sightings," by Bryan Bender: https://politi.co/2FlFSnF.

PAY DAY -- House Democratic leaders say they finally have the votes to bring the party's signature \$15-an-hour minimum wage bill on the floor, after nearly six months of squabbling between moderates and progressives. Top Democrats including Education and Labor Chairman Bobby Scott had been lobbying their caucus's skeptics for months, and have finally won over holdouts like Rep. Terri Sewell (D-Ala.), who had fought for a regional approach.

Time was running out . Democrats have been under intense pressure from outside groups to deliver on minimum wage before the August recess. Many Democrats, including Scott, had long argued that they had the votes. One aide compared it to a "game of chicken" — with some holdouts unlikely to come out in favor until they were faced with an actual roll call. The scoop from Sarah: $\frac{\text{https://politi.co/}_{31MKY62}}{\text{https://politi.co/}_{31MKY62}}$

FUN STORY ... "Influx of Women in Congress Gives Spouses Club a Makeover," by Kristina Peterson and Natalie Andrews of the Wall Street Journal: https://on.wsj.com/2IVfa65.

HEARD ON THE HILL -- Rep. Rodney Davis pretending to mistake Rep. Thomas Massie for his bestie Justin Amash, the lone Republican to call for impeachment. Massie's response? "Just don't call me Chip Roy," quipped Massie, referring to the freshman Republican from

Texas who has created headaches for his colleagues by forcing late night votes. (Although to be fair, Massie is no stranger to this tactic!)

NEW GLOBAL PODCAST FROM POLITICO IS LIVE: POLITICO's new podcast "Global Translations", presented by Citi, has officially launched. In this first chapter, host Luiza Savage and guests explore free trade and unpack the true stakes of the political decisions being made in real time. Topics to be covered in upcoming chapters include technological disruption and the environment. <u>Listen Now.</u>

TRANSITIONS

Matthew Simon is now chief of staff for Rep. Debbie Lesko (R-Ariz.). He previously was deputy COS and legislative director.

Anna Pacilio, who was communications director for Texas Rep. Marc Veasey (D), was hired as Beto O'Rourke's director of women's messaging."

TODAY IN CONGRESS

The House gavels in at 9 a.m., with first votes expected between 4 and 5 p.m. Today's agenda: http://bit.ly/2ZFmEkB.

The Senate meets at 9:30 a.m. to resume consideration of pending joint resolutions en bloc. At 1:45 p.m. the Senate will vote on the nomination of Rita Baranwal to be an assistant Energy secretary.

AROUND THE HILL

Rep. Lucy Roybal-Allard (D-Calif.) holds a news conference to announce the reintroduction of the Children's Act for Responsible Employment and Farm Safety (CARE) at 10:15 a.m. in HVC-200.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) holds her weekly press conference at 10:30 a.m. in HVC Studio A.

Sens. Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.) and Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) hold a pen and pad briefing to discuss long-term unemployment proposals at 10:30 a.m. in S-316.

House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) holds his weekly press conference at 12 p.m. in HVC Studio A.

Congressional Democrats hold a media event to urge Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to act on a universal background checks bill at 12 p.m. on the East Front of the Capitol.

The Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress holds a hearing on the "Cultivating Diversity and Improving Retention Among Congressional Staff" at 2 p.m. in 2253 Rayburn House Office Building.

Reps. Jan Schakowsky (D-III.), Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.) and Angie Craig (D-Minn.) and others introduce the Price Relief, Innovation, and Competition for Essential Drugs (PRICED) Act at 3:30 p.m. in 2358 Rayburn.



WEDNESDAY'S WINNER -- Nicholas Monck was the first person to correctly guess that Arizona is home to the most female governors.

TODAY'S QUESTION -- From Nicholas: What body met in the temporary building on Capitol Hill known as "the Oven" from 1801 to 1804? First person to correctly guess gets a mention in the next edition of Huddle. Send your best guess my way: mzanona@politico.com.

A message from Freight Rail Works:

For America's freight railroads, safety is more than just a buzzword—it's our culture. Through continued investment in technology that protects and empowers our workforce, freight rail is safer than ever before. From daily safety briefings to positive train control, state-of-the-art training programs to advanced track-side smart sensors, our culture of safety infuses every part of our 140,000-mile network. The result? Recent years have been the safest in freight rail's 200-year history. Learn about the advancements making America's freight rail network the safest and most efficient in the world.

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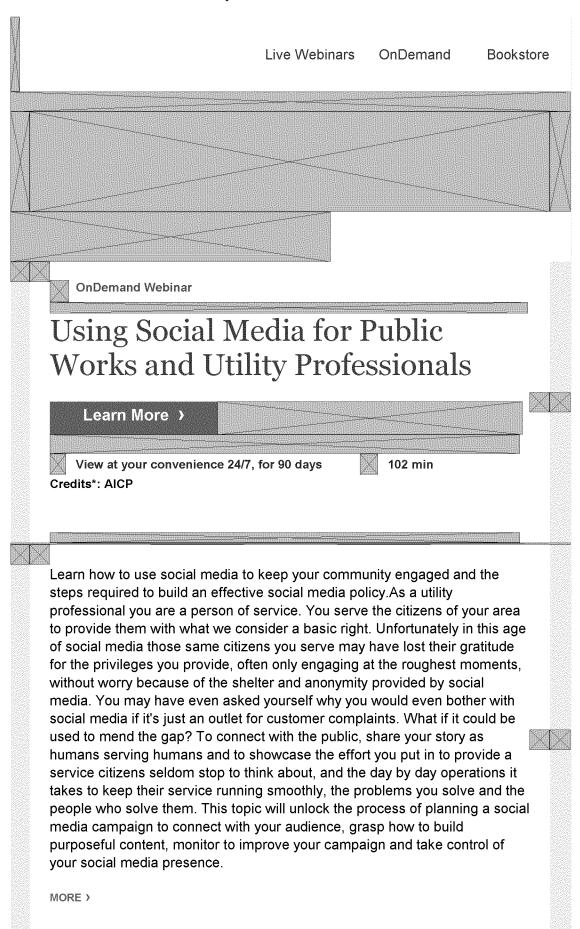
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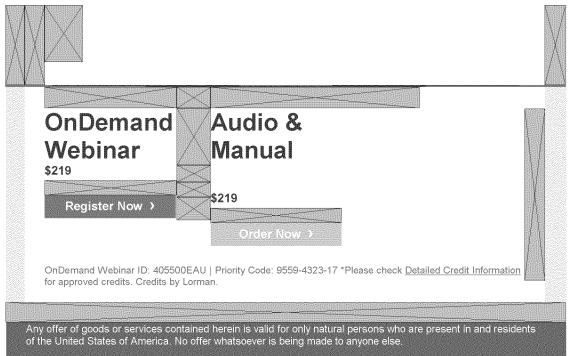
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IN ONE YEAR SINCE LAUNCH OF INITIATIVE TO COMBAT SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN HOUSING

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2018

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT REPORTS MAJOR INCREASES IN VICTIM REPORTING AND NUMBER OF LAWSUITS FILED IN ONE YEAR SINCE LAUNCH OF INITIATIVE TO COMBAT SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN HOUSING

WASHINGTON – The Justice Department today announced the one-year anniversary of its initiative to combat sexual harassment in housing. Since its launch in October 2017 and nationwide expansion in April 2018, the Department has seen a major upswing in both reporting and enforcement. Over the past year, the Department has:

- **Opened 34 new sexual harassment matters.** This is more than any previous year and nearly five times the number of matters opened in the prior year.
- Filed six pattern-or-practice lawsuits challenging alleged sexual harassment in housing. This is more than the Department has filed in any previous year.
 - Western District of Michigan <u>United States v. Tjoelker</u>,
 - o District of Kansas *United States v. Cao Properties and Rentals*,
 - o Southern District of Ohio *United States v. Klosterman*,
 - Northern District of New York *United States v. Waterbury*,
 - o Northern District of Alabama *United States v. Hames*,
 - Western District of Oklahoma <u>United States v. Pelfrey</u>.

"This important initiative is giving a voice to victims of sexual harassment in housing. It also sends the strong message that the Department is listening to victims and taking action against landlords and managers who attempt to prey on vulnerable individuals all over the country," said Acting Assistant Attorney General John Gore for the Civil Rights Division. "The Justice Department remains committed to our goal to make more people aware that no one should have to choose between a home and the right to be free from sexual harassment."

"A home can never be a place of peace and comfort for individuals who are subjected to sexual harassment," said Anna María Farías, HUD's Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity. "We still have work to do, but the initiative has taken tremendous steps this past year toward addressing this unlawful behavior and the Justice Department and HUD remain committed to doing even more to inform the public about their housing rights."

The Department took several steps this past year to drive an increase in reporting and enforcement.

First, the Department held 20 roundtables about sexual harassment in housing at U.S. Attorneys' Offices across the country. At these events, the Department

Seife v. EPA (1:19-cv-05190)

creates opportunities for collaboration with local community partners, including engaging local law enforcement officers, legal aid offices, fair housing organizations, universities, civil rights organizations, and other groups.

U.S. Attorney Roundtables Hosted this Year:

Central District of California	District of Colorado
Middle District of Florida	Northern District of Georgia
Northern District of Iowa	District of Maryland
District of Massachusetts	Eastern District of Michigan
District of Minnesota	District of New Jersey (2)
Eastern & Southern Districts of New York (joint)	Northern District of Ohio
Eastern District of Pennsylvania	District of South Dakota
Northern District of Texas	District of Vermont
Western District of Virginia (2)	

Second, the Department created an outreach toolkit designed to leverage the nationwide network of U.S. Attorney's Offices and boost local outreach about sexual harassment in housing.

Third, the Department released a <u>Public Service Announcement</u> (PSA), in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), featuring three women who were identified as victims of sexual harassment in DOJ lawsuits. The Department developed a 60-second video featuring three women who were injured parties in sexual harassment lawsuits brought by the Department under the Fair Housing Act. In the PSA, the women, in their own words, share the stories of how they were harassed and the impact the experience has on their lives. The PSA is posted on the Department's <u>YouTube channel</u>.

Fourth, the Department launched a <u>webpage</u> on sexual harassment in housing. It is available in both English and <u>Spanish</u>. The webpage has <u>resources</u> available to download. This includes a partnership toolkit, flyers in 11 languages (English, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese (simplified), Chinese (traditional), Haitian Creole, Hindi, Korean, Tagalog, Urdu, and Vietnamese), palm cards in English and Spanish, and information sheets for advocates in English and Spanish.

Finally, the Department and HUD launched a new Task Force to Combat Sexual Harassment in Housing. It is focused on five key areas: continued data sharing and analysis, joint development of training, evaluation of public housing complaint mechanisms, coordination of public outreach and press strategy, and review of federal policies. The Task Force has facilitated collaboration between DOJ and HUD in drawing attention to the national PSA, including distributing it to public housing authorities, on HUD's YouTube channel, and through social media.

More information about the Civil Rights Division and the civil rights laws it enforces is available at <u>justice.gov/crt</u>. If you believe you may be a victim of sexual harassment in housing, you should:

- call the Justice Department at 1-844-380-6178,
- send an e-mail to fairhousing@usdoj.gov, or
- contact HUD at 1-800-669-9777.

If you have information or questions about any other housing discrimination, you can contact the Department at 1-800-896-7743.

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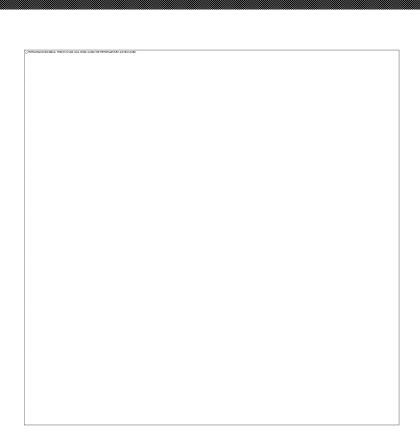
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Morning Consult Brands: United Kingdom Plans to Implement First Digital Tax on Large Tech Firms



By Sam Sabin

Top Stories

As part of its annual budget, the United Kingdom plans to move forward with its plan to begin a digital tax on large tech firms' locally generated revenue by 2020, targeting companies with global revenue of at least £500 million (\$637.2 million). The U.K. is one of the first countries to rewrite its tax code for the digital era, as others contemplate their own versions of the tax, but tech lobbying group Information Technology Industry Council said the

new tax could "create a chilling effect on investment in the U.K." (The Wall Street Journal)

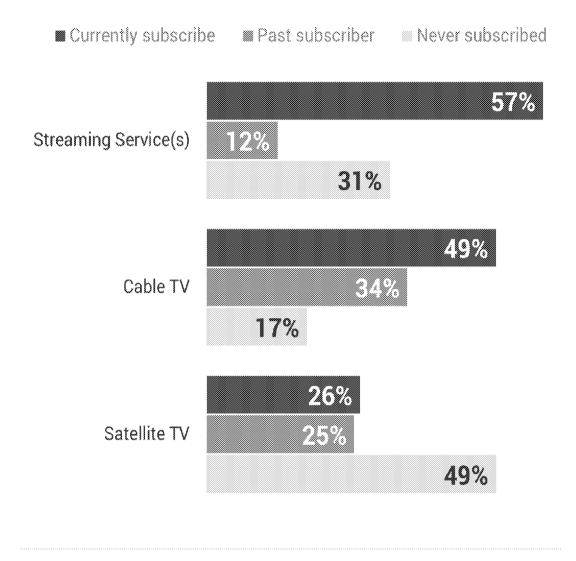
- The National Hockey League has signed a multiyear agreement with MGM Resorts International to share its data for use in sports betting, becoming the second major professional sports league to strike such a deal after the National Basketball Association and the Women's National Basketball Association in July. While the data is not exclusive to MGM, the company will acquire access to proprietary league data to customize game details along with betting opportunities for U.S. customers in places where gambling is legal. (Sports Illustrated)
- Snap Inc. Chief Executive Evan Spiegel promoted vice president of U.S. sales Kristen O'Hara to chief business officer, only to rescind the offer two days later and hire Jeremi Gorman from Amazon.com Inc. to the position instead, according to people familiar with the matter. O'Hara, who joined Snap in September from WarnerMedia Inc., has since left the company, citing changes in the team structure, the people said. (Bloomberg)

Chart Review

Cable Needs to Dial Up Flexibility, Dial Down Cost to Bring Back Cord-Cutters
Morning Consult

Most Households Currently Subscribe to a Streaming Service

Do you, or anyone in your household, subscribe to the following?



MORNING CONSULT

Poll conducted from Oct. 18-19, 2018, among a national sample of 2,201 adults, with a margin of error of +/-2%.

Events Calendar (All Times Local)

TUESDAY

Direct Brand Summit	7:30 a.m.
Sustainable Brands New Metrics '18	7:30 a.m.
XRDC for conference for augmented, virtual and mixed reality innovators	10 a.m.
NYC Television Week	5 p.m.

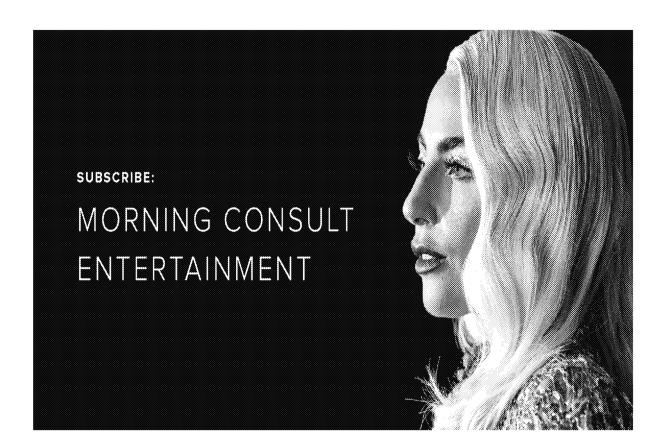
WEDNESDAY

Sustainable Brands New Metrics '18	7:30 a.m.
Direct Brand Summit	8 a.m.
NYC Television Week	8 a.m.
ANA webinar: Measuring the ROI of Social Media	1 p.m.

THURSDAY

NYC Television Week	8 a.m.
FTC Hearing: Competition and Consumer Protection in the 21st Century	9 a.m.
ANA webinar: What Big Brands Can Learn from Direct-to-Consumer Marketers	1 p.m.
Summit LA18	2 p.m.

FRIDAY



Introducing Morning Consult's entertainment email briefing

We're excited to announce the launch of a new email briefing on the entertainment industry, explaining and analyzing the trends in viewership, fandom, and innovation. <u>Subscribe today ???</u>

Advertising

MDC 'Working Diligently' to Improve Performance as it Seeks New CEO, Mulls Sale

Megan Graham, Ad Age

MDC Partners reported third-quarter earnings Monday morning, saying it has continued to cut costs as the holding company seeks a new chief executive and continues a strategic review. The company reported that third quarter revenue was flat year over year at \$375.8 million.

Puma Taps Havas as Media Agency of Record

Megan Graham, Ad Age

German sportswear brand Puma has tapped Havas Media as its new global media agency for buying and planning following a review. Ad Age first reported the news of the review earlier this year.

J.M. Smucker Revamps Marketing Strategy to Keep Up With Changes, Spur Growth

Alexandra Bruell, The Wall Street Journal

J.M. Smucker Co., the owner of iconic brands like Folgers coffee and Jif peanut butter, is shifting its marketing approach in an effort to boost growth and resonate with consumers who are spending more time online.

'We're getting smarter': Audience development shifts focus from Facebook traffic to generating revenue Lucia Moses, Digiday

Audience development pros have always been crucial to how publishers reach new readers. But increasingly, they're all about the revenue, trying to get people to return to the site in hopes they eventually sign up for a membership, subscribe or buy a ticket to an event.

'Increasingly frustrating experience': Ad buyers say Facebook Ads Manager is the most inconsistent of the platforms Kerry Flynn, Digiday

On Monday afternoon, Amanda Orson, head of digital strategy for W2PY, had her day turn into a nightmare. The reason: Facebook Ads Manager was down.

How Denny's became 'America's Diner' again through a decade of marketing efforts

Kyle O'Brien, The Drum

Chances are, if you went to college in the US or had a late night of youth-filled fun, you've had a meal at Denny's. But when was the last time you visited one of the yellow-signed diners?

Media and Entertainment

<u>Famously secretive, MPAA pulls back the curtain on ratings - a</u> little bit

David Ng, Los Angeles Times

In the eyes of many filmmakers, the Motion Picture Assn. of America should be rated R - for reticent. The MPAA has long kept its rating methods a tightly guarded secret as it continues to wield enormous power over the types of explicit content that can been shown in U.S. cinemas.

Fox News bans 'Lou Dobbs Tonight' guest over George Soros

Stephen Battaglio, Los Angeles Times

Fox Business Network has banned a guest who made inflammatory and unsubstantiated comments about Democratic Party donor George Soros during a Thursday edition of "Lou Dobbs Tonight." The guest, Chris Farrell, asserted on Dobbs' program that a caravan of migrants currently traveling in southern Mexico was funded by Soros.

<u>Disney is pushing 'Black Panther' in 16 Oscar categories, and 'Avengers: Infinity War' in just 1</u>

Travis Clark, Business Insider

Disney reigns supreme at the box office this year with its superhero hits, but when it comes to the Oscars, it's betting everything on one of them: "Black Panther," the highest-grossing movie of 2018 in the US. Disney is pushing the movie in 16 Oscar categories out of 24, according to its "For Your Consideration" website (via Indiewire), and its other Marvel blockbuster, "Avengers: Infinity War," in just one.

Social Media and Technology

Amazon Tests Search-Based Retargeting, The First Time Its Search Data Leaves Its Walls James Hercher, AdExchanger

 Amazon is testing a program that lets advertisers use search queries to retarget across the web, according to agency executives briefed about the pilot program. This capability is only available through Amazon's DSP and it is the first time that Amazon search data is being used off of Amazon's owned and operated platform.

<u>Facebook suddenly banned this start-up from advertising, and its founder thinks Facebook is trying to squash a competitor Salvador Rodriguez, CNBC</u>

Jesse Leimgruber is the co-founder of Bloom, a start-up building technology to help people keep control over their personal data as they sign into various online services and apps. He and his team did what many start-ups do to accelerate growth: they advertised on Facebook.

Snapchat just massively stepped up its ambition to become the future of TV, bringing shows to the UK Shona Ghosh, Business Insider

Snap has massively stepped up its ambitions to become the future of TV, partnering 17 British media brands to bring shows to UK Snapchat users. Broadcasters and media organisations including Channel 4, Vice, and Sky News are among the partners who will bring short, TV-like episodes to Snapchat.

Scooter Firm Lime Hires Former Uber Business Chief Greg Bensinger, The Wall Street Journal

Less than three months after announcing an investment from Uber Technologies Inc., electric-scooter startup Lime has landed one of its key business executives. Lime, which has raised \$467 million, said it hired David Richter as chief of business, where he will oversee mergers and acquisitions, sales strategy and other finance operations.

<u>Upgrade? No Thanks. Americans Are Sticking With Their Old</u> Phones

Sarah Krouse, The Wall Street Journal

Americans are holding on to their smartphones for longer than ever. Pricier devices, fewer subsidies from carriers and the demise of the two-year cellphone contract have led consumers to wait an average of 2.83 years to upgrade their smartphones, according to data for the third quarter from HYLA Mobile Inc., a mobile-device trade-in company that works with carriers and big-box stores.

<u>Instagrammers Are Being Lured to "The World's Most Epic Pop-Up" on Nov. 6 (at Every Polling Place)</u>

David Griner, Adweek

If you like limited-time pop-ups that make for great Instagram fodder and seem to attract every celebrity in America, then look no further than the Museum of Voting. Happening only on Nov. 6, it has the vibe of an immersive democratic experience where your decisions have highly realistic consequences-because it is, and they do.

PR and Marketing

<u>Goop, new to London, is already being reported to U.K.</u> regulators

Cale Guthrie Weissman, Fast Company

Gwyneth Paltrow's infamous new age-y, female-centric wellness company is being investigated by U.K. advertising watchdogs. A charity has reportedly filed claims with both Britain's National Trading Standards and the Advertising Standards Authority alleging that Goop violated over 113 advertising laws.

Google Engineers Are Organizing a Walkout to Protest The Company's Protection of an Alleged Sexual Harasser Caroline O'Donovan and Ryan Mac, BuzzFeed News

A group of more than 200 engineers at Google are organizing a companywide "women's walk" walkout for later this week to protest recent revelations about the search giant's protection of employees that had allegedly engaged in sexual misconduct, according to four people familiar with the situation inside Google.

Vacation raffles, kayaks and 'glamour' bundles are just some of the perks retailers are using to attract holiday help Courtney Reagan, CNBC

Vacation raffles, cash bonuses, kayaks and diamond earrings are just some of the perks U.S. retailers are offering to attract holiday workers amid one of the tightest labor markets in decades. Retailers, e-commerce and logistics companies are looking to hire 704,000 holiday workers this year - the most since 2014 when unemployment stood at around 6 percent, according to job placement and coaching firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas.

Walmart, expecting best holiday season yet, wants to speed shoppers with new mobile checkout

Lauren Thomas, CNBC

Walmart is doing whatever it can to speed shoppers through its stores this holiday season. The retailer said Tuesday it will be rolling out a "check out with me" option that it's been testing to all of its stores by Black Friday.

<u>Campbell Soup and Executive 'Accelerate' His Exit After</u> <u>George Soros Tweet</u>

Amie Tsang, The New York Times

A Campbell Soup Company executive who had planned to retire next month left last week instead after sharing a conspiracy theory on Twitter about a migrant caravan in Mexico, the company said on Monday.

Apple's Iconic Stores Struggle in China Wayne Ma, The Information

Eight years ago, Tim Cook, then Apple's chief operating officer, was so bullish on the performance of the company's stores in China he told analysts its four retail locations in the country-one of which sat beneath a glittering 40-foot tall shaft of glass in Shanghai's ritzy Pudong district-were generating more revenue than most others in the world. By the end of 2011, company executives predicted, Apple would have as many as 25 stores in China.

New York's Online Fantasy Sports Law Voided by State Judge Erik Larson and Christopher Palmeri, Bloomberg

The New York law that legalized online fantasy sports games - allowing FanDuel Inc. and DraftKings Inc. to do business in the state - runs afoul of the state Constitution, a judge ruled. In an Oct. 26 ruling, state Supreme Court Justice Gerald Connolly in Albany struck down part of the 2016 law in a lawsuit brought by four New Yorkers.

Opinions, Editorials, Perspectives and Research

Your Kid's Apps Are Crammed With Ads Nellie Bowles, The New York Times

In a new study of the most downloaded apps for children ages 5 and younger, researchers found advertising in almost all of them.

Proving It: Demystifying Attribution Within Advanced TV Mike Welch and Michael Law, IAB

It's the marketer's age old dilemma to determine: "Is my campaign working? Which ad is performing best?" Traditional TV buyers are used to getting questions like these from their clients and rarely do they have a straight answer.

What to Expect From Apple's (Second) Fall Hardware Event Lauren Goode, Wired

Apple is having another hardware launch event Tuesday, the second of its kind the company has hosted this fall, and the fourth major media event for Apple this year. While September's iPhone launch was probably more exciting for the many millions of people who will buy new handsets this year, tomorrow's announcements could in some ways be more interesting than new iPhones.

<u>U.K.'s Tech Tax Is Both Pointless and Essential</u> **Alex Webb, Bloomberg**

A unilateral levy on tech giants' revenue won't raise much money, but its global impact will be far greater.



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